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September/October 2010

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2009**



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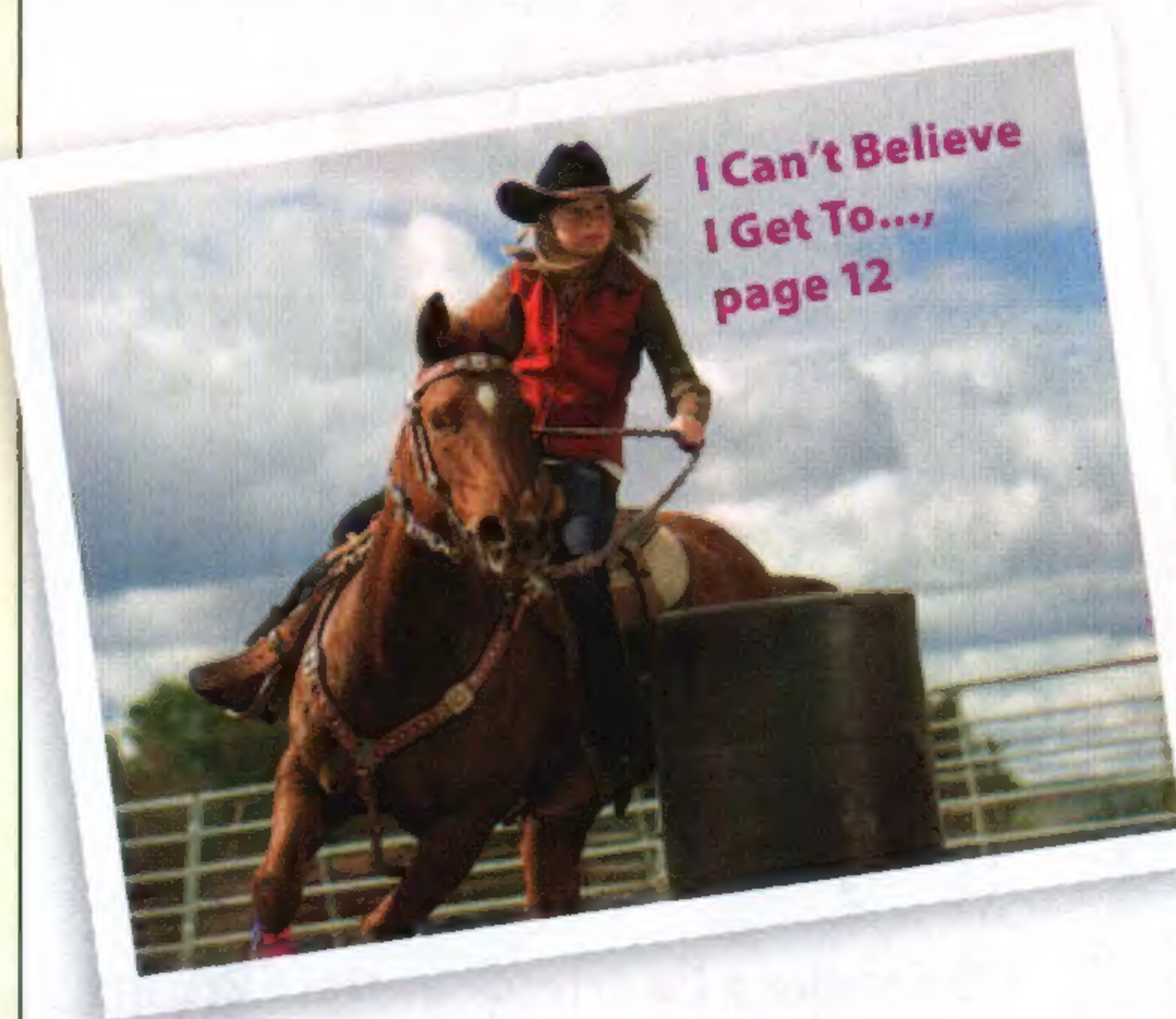
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# Girls

E X P R E S S

## Falling Asleep

These easy tips will help you clear your head, relax, and ZZZZZZ ...



**1. Start a journal.** After dinner, write down everything from the day that made you feel mad, sad, guilty, worried, or surprised. When you're finished, slam the book shut. Tell yourself that you're done thinking about those things, and go do something else.

**Why:** This helps you avoid dwelling on your worries when you're in bed.

**2. Unplug.** About an hour before bedtime, turn off the TV, walk away from the computer, or save your game and power down. Now's the time to chat with a family member, pick up a book, or hang out in your room.

**Why:** This helps your mind and body wind down.

**3. Make a bedtime routine.** Brush out your hair, gently rub some lotion on your hands or feet, do some easy stretching or yoga poses—whatever helps you to feel calm and content.

**Why:** A routine helps train your body to know when it's time to sleep.

**4. Hit the sack.** Focus on breathing slowly and feeling heavy, almost as if you could sink right through your mattress. You should be asleep in no time. Sweet dreams!

### Meet an AG Reader

Alexis W.  
Age 12, Virginia



I live with my mom and dad and two brothers, Jason and Trevor.

My favorite spot in my house is my reading corner. It's small and cozy but big enough for me and 23 books—I counted!

A phrase my friends would use to describe me: awesomely loud

A day I most wanted to disappear: At lunch, some boys were messing around. They dropped a pear onto a ketchup packet while I was walking by—and the ketchup squirted all over my new shirt.

I can't live without my purple pen.

My proudest day: It was the day I found out that I had made it onto an all-star softball team AND learned that I had been cast in a performance of *The Wizard of Oz*. (I played a flying monkey and a Munchkin!)

My favorite part of AG is the quizzes. I like to learn more about myself and other girls.

*Introduce Yourself!*

To find out how you could be a featured reader, go to [americangirlmagazine.com](http://americangirlmagazine.com) and click on "Start the fun."



# Shining Star

**E**mma S. loves trick-or-treating and dressing up, but her favorite part of Halloween happens before October 31. For the past two years, the Pennsylvania 12-year-old has put smiles on the faces of children in need by giving them Halloween costumes to wear.

"When cleaning out my closet one day, I realized how lucky I was to have a new costume each year," Emma says. She and her mom made posters and collection boxes for people to drop off old costumes. Soon, piles of costumes—cartoon characters,

fairies, princesses, animals, even a mummy—filled their basement. Emma spent hours sorting, labeling, and folding the costumes. A local athletic league helped set up an event to hand out the costumes to kids who needed them. The next year, Emma and her mom did it again.

"It is really fun watching the kids smile and helping them pick costumes," says Emma, who has given out more than 2,000 costumes. "At first, I wasn't sure this idea would go anywhere. What I've learned is, if you have a good idea, don't let it go."



**You can shine, too.**  
Are your old Halloween costumes stashed away somewhere? If you don't need them, you can donate them when you clean out old clothes and toys.

## Fairy Flock

Fill a page with funny fairies!

1.



2.



3.



1.



2.



3.



1.



2.



3.





# Football Fun

Have a football but not enough players to make a team? Play these great games instead!

## Pass!

It's hard to keep the ball from falling in this high-speed challenge. Players should stand in a circle and try to pass the ball from player to player around the circle. The catch? No hands! Use only your arms to toss the ball to the next player—who has to catch the ball with her arms. See if you can get the ball all the way around the circle once without it falling. If you make it, try again—only faster this time!

## Quarterback Challenge

How good is your aim? Lay a hula hoop in the grass about five steps away from your starting point. Take turns with friends and try to throw the ball so that it lands inside the hoop. (It's OK if the ball bounces out once it hits.) If you miss the hoop, you're out. Once everyone has thrown, move the hoop farther away. Keep playing, moving the hoop farther once players have hit it. The last person in the game is the winner.


## Hot Streak


Freeze and thaw in this fun tag twist! Choose two people to be It—one is Fire, the other is Ice. On "Go," all other players run from Ice, who freezes players to the spot by tagging them. Fire waits 10 seconds and then goes on a Hot Streak, thawing frozen players by throwing the football to them. If the ball is caught, the frozen player thaws. If she misses the ball, she's still frozen. Play continues until every player is either frozen or thawed. Then pick a new Fire and Ice, and play again!



## Reader Recipe

## Crazy Cookie Bars

 Ask an adult to preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Combine 1 stick of **butter**, melted, and 1 teaspoon **vanilla** in a 13-by-9-inch baking pan. Sprinkle 1 cup **graham cracker crumbs** over the butter mixture. Sprinkle 1 cup **butterscotch chips** evenly over the crumbs, followed by 1 cup **chocolate chips**, 1 cup **shredded coconut**, and 1 cup **chopped nuts**. Pour a 14-ounce can of **sweetened condensed milk** over the top. Bake 25 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool, and enjoy!

  
Maris H.  
Age 10, North Carolina



Send your yummy—and easy—recipes to the address on page 7.

## True Story

All of the kids in Kerima and Zenebe's family are twins!

Dear American Girl,

In our family, there's always someone similar nearby. We have three sets of twins in our house. (Well, four sets, if you count our twin dogs.) We're twins. We also have twin older brothers and twin baby sisters!

Even though we're twins, we're different.

(Kerima here) I'm older by one minute and very outgoing. I also like to draw.

(Now it's Zenebe) I'm taller and a little shy. I like to sew.

But we're similar in a lot of ways. At school, we're honor students in the same class. We both like light green. Sometimes we say the same things or have similar dreams at night.

We share a lot of things, but we don't have to share our new sisters. We each have one to help care for. The babies will learn that having so many sets of twins makes our family really special. All of us being together—that's the best part about life in our house.

Sincerely,  
Kerima A.  
and  
Zenebe A.  
Age 10, New York



Kerima

Zenebe



Creative Corner

# Earbud Buddy



Cut out card. Flip over for directions.



Answer these questions, and then turn the page to see how your answers compare to those of other AG readers.

**On most days, where do you get your lunch?**

- \* I bring a lunch to school.
- \* I buy a lunch at school.

**Besides cheese, what's your favorite pizza topping?**

- \* sausage
- \* pepperoni
- \* tomatoes
- \* mushrooms



# Earbud Buddy

Make a cute keeper for your earbuds. Cut adhesive-backed felt to cover the lid of a clean mini candy tin. Peel the backing off and attach felt to the tin. Cut ribbon to fit around the edge of the lid, and attach with Glue Dots. Decorate top with an appliqué. Carefully coil earbud cord, and tuck earbuds inside—they won't get tangled!



## AG Poll

What girls told us at  
[americangirlmagazine.com](http://americangirlmagazine.com)

### At school:

**69%**  
of girls bring lunch.



**31%**  
of girls buy lunch.



### Girls' pizza favorites:

**61%**  
pepperoni

**10%**  
mushrooms

**23%**  
sausage

**6%**  
tomatoes

To answer our weekly poll question, go to [americangirlmagazine.com](http://americangirlmagazine.com) and click on "Fun for Girls."

# Liven Up Your Lunch

Our fresh ideas will banish brown-bag boredom.

## Boring Bread?

Try building your sandwich on something unexpected:

bagel	waffle
English muffin	pita pocket
tortilla	bakery roll
burger bun	



## Limp Lunch Meat?

You can get protein in lots of different ways:

string cheese	almond butter
tuna	turkey jerky
boiled egg	cottage cheese
bean dip	



## Sorry Sides?

Punch up pretzels, fruits, or raw veggies by dipping them in one of these:

honey	yogurt
cream cheese	salsa
salad dressing	hummus
mustard	

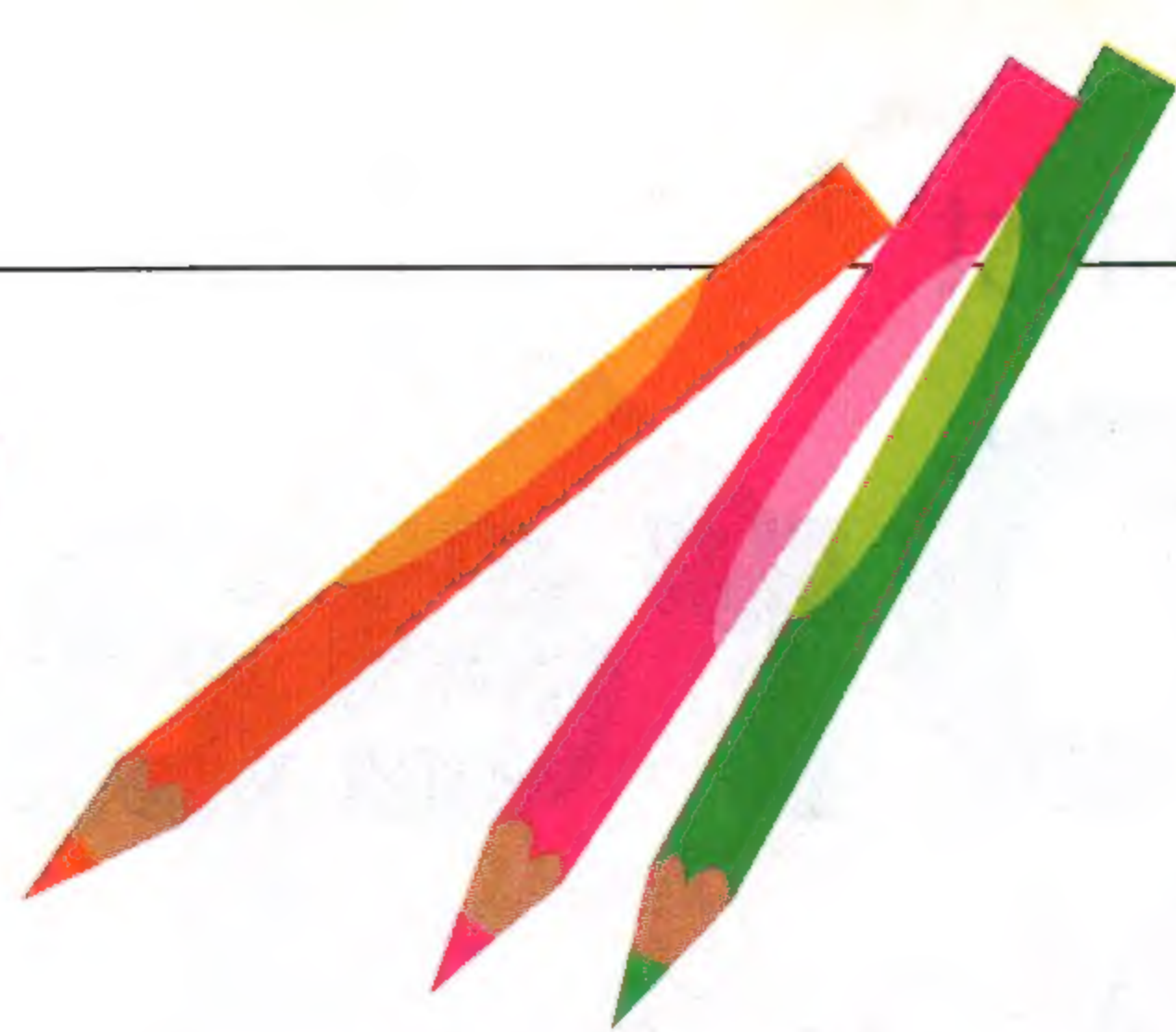


What's in your favorite brown-bag lunch? Write to us at the address on page 7.



# AG Art Gallery

Check out these American girls!



Zasu S.  
Age 9, California



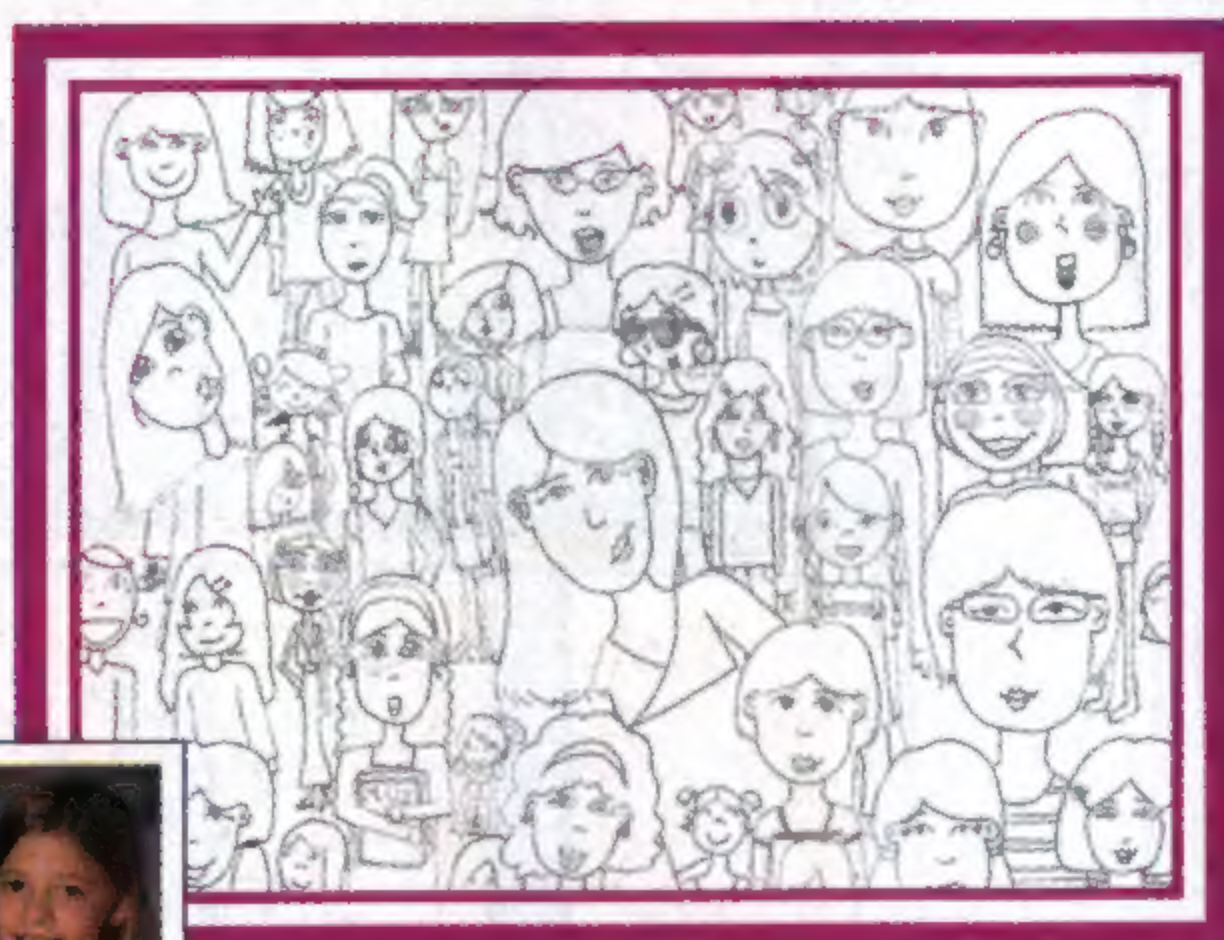
Aubrey S.  
Age 9, North Carolina



Chloe E.  
Age 10, Arizona



Erin M.  
Age 13, North Dakota



Lillie S.  
Age 13, Oregon

Help us fill our gallery! Send color copies of artwork or photos **created by YOU** to the address below. Sorry, we can't return entries.

## Write to Us

- Be sure to include your
- \* first and last name
  - \* address and phone number
  - \* birth date, including year
  - \* school photo or other portrait
  - \* parent's signature

**Send us a cool envelope!** Print our address neatly on the front and your return address on the back.

We can't print every letter, but we read everything you send to us. Hope to hear from you soon! ☆

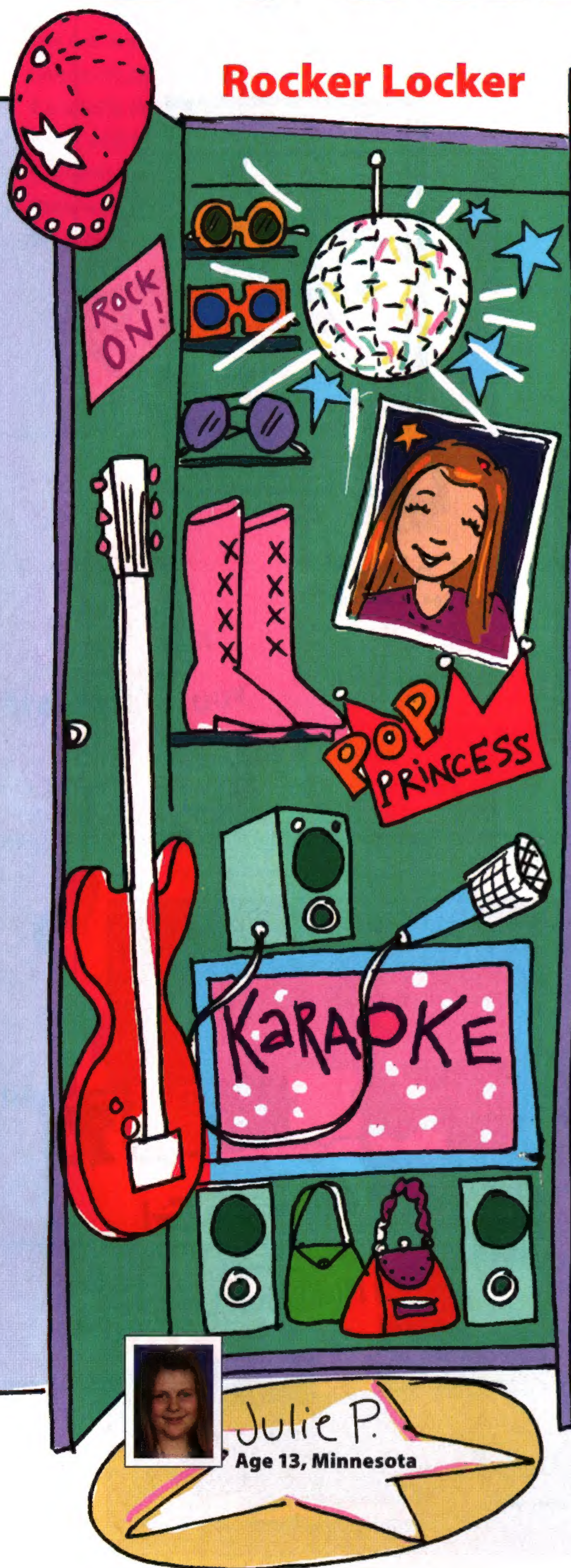


Envelope art by  
Grace K.  
Age 11,  
Massachusetts



# Dream Lockers

## Rocker Locker



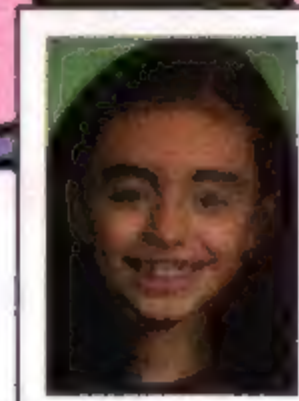
Julie P.  
Age 13, Minnesota

## Mini Movie Theater



Emma S.  
Age 11, Michigan

## Sweet Spot



Anna P.  
Age 8, New York



These girls designed lockers that are too cool for school!



## New Contest: Pet Look-Alikes

Do you and your pet look like twins? Maybe your hair is exactly the same shade as your golden retriever's fur. Perhaps you have bright blue eyes like your cat's. Or you could even share an identical grin with your horse. Send a photo of yourself and your look-alike pet to the address on page 7, along with your first and last name, address, school or portrait-style photo, and birth date. **Postmark deadline: October 8, 2010. Winners will appear in the March/April 2011 issue. Sorry, we can't return entries.** ★



Photo: Tetra Images/Getty Images



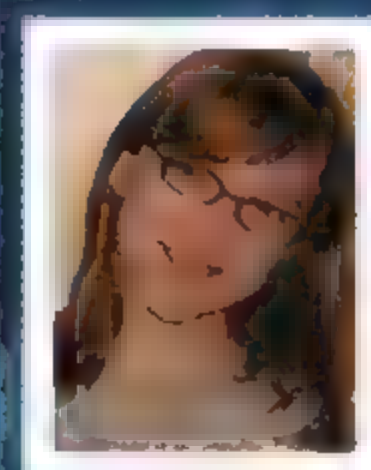
# Which animal is your dream pet?



I wish I could have a  
**manatee** for a pet.

They are my favorite animal. Since they  
are an endangered species, I have  
donated money to help save them.

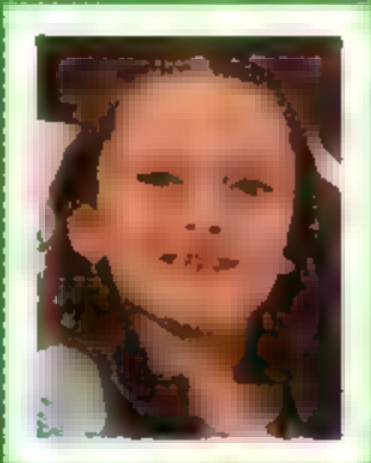
I love manatees!



*Grace J.*  
Age 13, Kentucky

I would pick a **panda**.  
She would live in the big tree in our front  
yard, and I would name her Bamboo.

I think a panda would be a  
cuddly and fun pet!

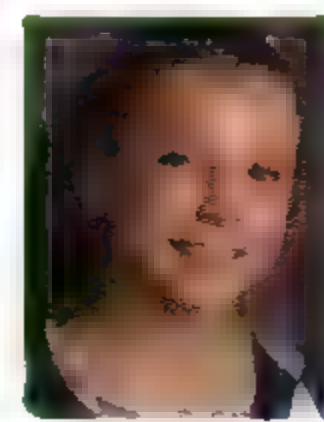


*Krisanna A.*  
Age 9, Colorado

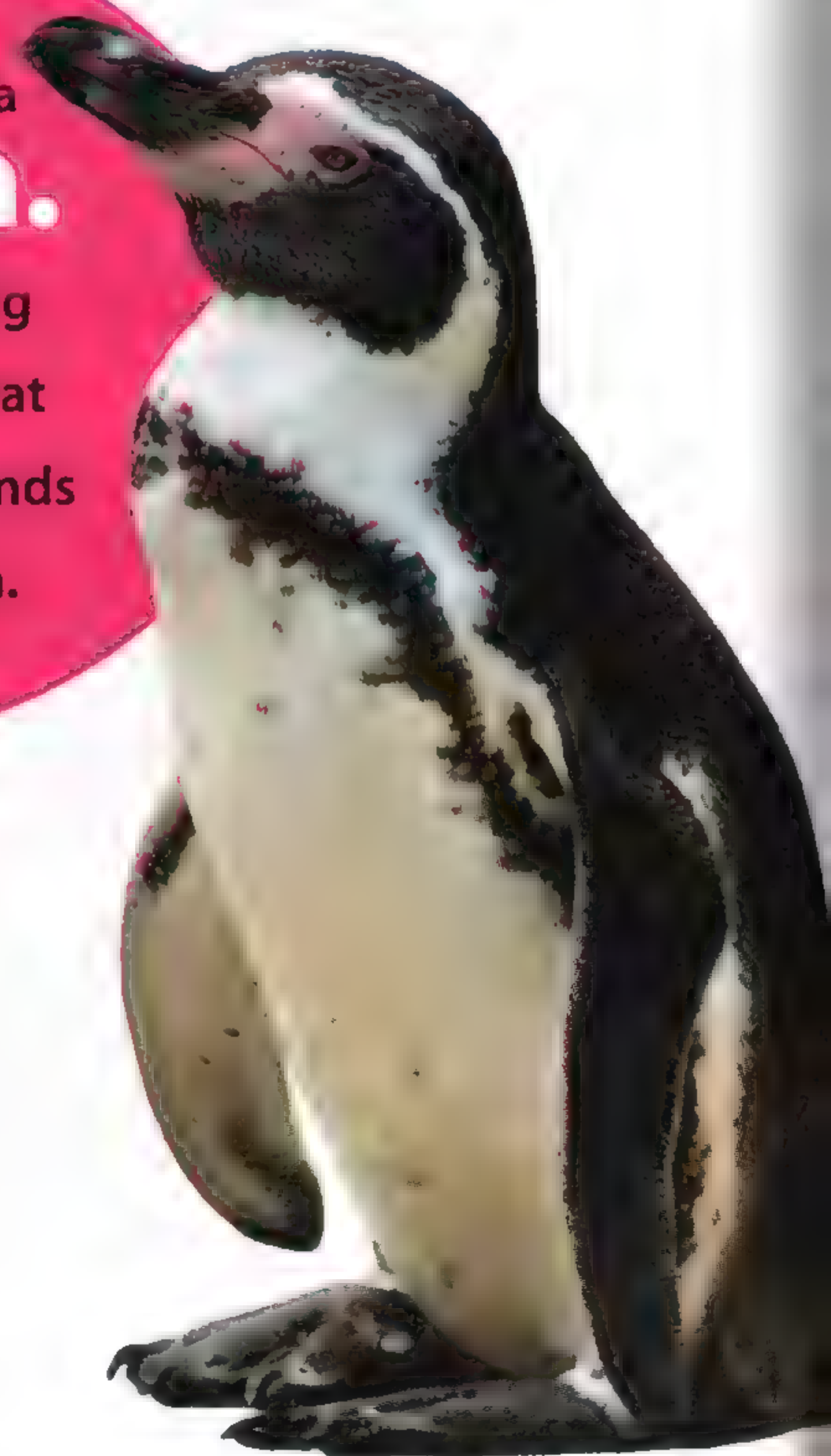


I would love to have a  
**penguin**.

I already have my dog  
Moby, but I'm sure that  
he would be great friends  
with a little penguin.



*Mia S.*  
Age 11, Kansas





These are the top animals  
readers want to have as pets:



1. Horse

*It's  
a tie!*



2. Dog



3. Dolphin



4. Monkey



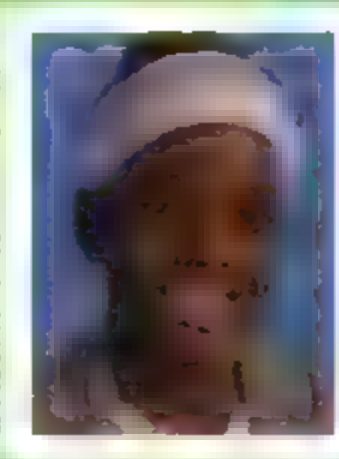
5. Panda

I would love to have a...



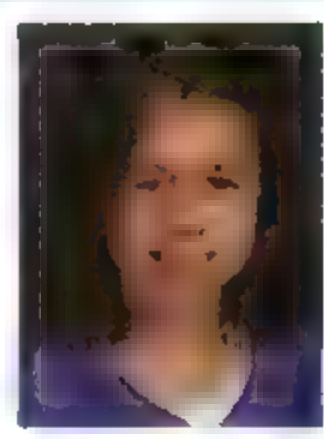
Abigail M.  
Age 11, Mississippi

toucan



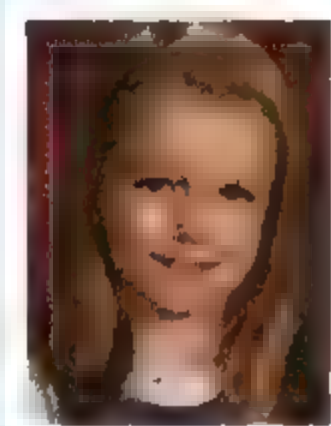
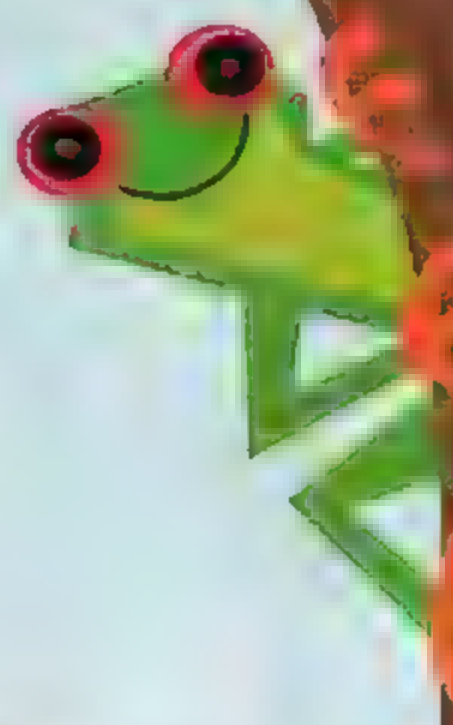
Comfort U.  
Age 11, Massachusetts

giraffe



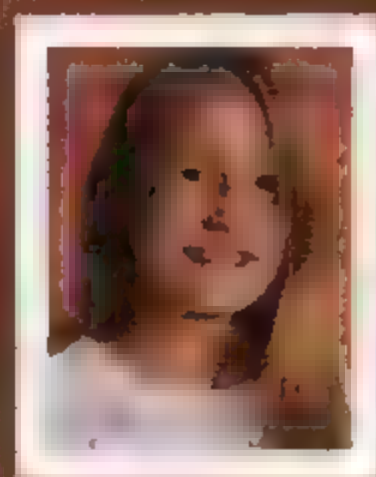
Rachel L.  
Age 9, Missouri

tree frog



Davy M.  
Age 8, California

baby elephant



Cydnee T.  
Age 10, Georgia

hedgehog



## Next question!



EMMA H.

This question is from  
11-year-old Emma of Texas:  
"Which animal do you  
think best matches your  
personality, and why?"

Send your answers  
to Emma's question to  
the address on page 7.  
Postmark deadline:  
October 8, 2010.  
Some answers  
will appear in  
the March/April  
2011 issue. ★

Have you always  
wanted to know something  
about other *American Girl*  
readers? Send us your  
questions, and you may  
be featured in an  
upcoming issue!

Remember, never touch a wild animal. They're not meant to be real pets.



Meet six girls whose hard work  
pays off in amazing ways.

I can't  
**BELIEVE**  
I get to...

...perform with a





Just hanging around!



Staaay steady ...

## Marlo G. Age 10, Minnesota

**Y**ep, when you're first learning to walk a tightrope, you fall off—a lot. (It's a good thing that the wire I walk is low to the ground!) But with really good balance and a lot of practice, it's possible to learn to walk carefully but confidently across a narrow metal strand—and to make it to the other side safely.

There are lots of different circus arts. My sister, Joia, does clowning and has tried other acts, and I've trained in several of them, too. Besides low wire (the name for the low tightrope that I use), I also do triple trapeze. That's a large trapeze separated into three different parts, one for each performer. Three of us work as a team to perform complex tricks. On triple trap, it's all about teamwork and trust—you have to be confident that your team won't let you fall. And once you've worked together for a while, you know that they won't.

At the circus, sometimes more than one act is going on at once. When that happens, I work hard to get the audience's attention and to wow them with what I can do. Onstage, I have to stay focused and confident—and to smile so hard that my cheeks cramp. But that's not hard to do when I'm having so much fun.

## Joia G. Age 9, Minnesota

**I**'m a clown. If you're in the audience when I'm performing at the circus, it's my goal to get you laughing. If you are frowning or looking at me strangely and not laughing at all, here are some things I might try:

- Doing a weird dance
- Talking to you in an odd accent
- Telling you a joke
- Sitting down next to you and stealing some popcorn
- Singing—laaaa!

Really, though, clowning is serious business (well, kind of). We don't just go out there and try to be funny. The other clowns and I take classes and train our bodies and brains to react to situa-

tions in funny ways. We play games that help us learn to react quickly to the audience and say things to keep up the laughter. I know how to fall flat on the ground and make the audience think I really fell, which is also pretty funny. I've learned to keep myself from laughing when everyone else is laughing. (Even though I still cross my fingers and hope that I don't crack up, too!)

I feel proud when I have people in stitches. If everyone's laughing, I'm happy—it means that I've done my job well.



Rehearsing my act

# circus!



# ...race with my favorite

**Shayla C. Age 11, Washington**

**I**t's pretty amazing that I can run barrels without falling off my horse. Barrel racing is a super fast sport. When my horse Missy and I barrel race, it goes like this: We ride through the gates, and—"Go!"—the race starts. We race toward the first of three barrels. My hair blows in the wind, and I hang on into the turns. It's about speed, knowing where to go, and balance. But to me, the most important thing about barrel racing is working as a team with my horse. That's why I love it, because I get to do it with Missy. She's 17, and I've known her my whole life.

A race lasts less than 30 seconds, but there are years of work that go into it. I have been barrel racing since I was four, and now I ride five days a week to keep Missy in shape. On rodeo day, I pack up my saddle, cinch, bridle, and boots. Then I groom Missy and braid her mane. After a race, I cool Missy off and give her water and apple-flavored treats.

I've won two prize saddles (one has a pink seat, and the other one is turquoise) and lots of ribbons for barrel racing. Some of my friends have started racing, too. But the best part is being with Missy. At home on our farm, I like to lope around the pasture and forget about stressful things such as homework. My family's whole life is pretty much horses. I'm so thankful that I'm getting to live my dream life.





# horse!

Image courtesy of Nick Jr.



Here's Kai-Lan!

## ...do the voice of a cartoon character!

**Jade-Lianna P.**

Age 14, Wisconsin

**F**or four years I've been a voice actress on the animated TV series *Ni Hao, Kai-Lan*. I play Kai-Lan Chow, a cute bilingual five-year-old who likes to help her friends.

Acting is fun, but it's also a lot of hard work. In addition to my regular schoolwork, I am learning Mandarin Chinese for the role. The show is done mostly in English, but each episode introduces Mandarin words and phrases. My voice coach helps, but the language has been the hardest part of this job. It's also the best part. I love learning about my heritage and my culture. Kai-Lan and I are a lot alike. We're both Chinese-American. When I was eight months old, my parents adopted me from an orphanage in China and brought me home to Wisconsin.

Another thing that Kai-Lan and I have in common—we both love adventure. Doing this show has definitely been an adventure. I had four auditions before I got the part. Once a week, I go to a studio to record the show. I stand behind the microphone and read the script. The producers give me directions. Sometimes I have to repeat the words a few times until I get them right.

One of my favorite Mandarin phrases that I'm working on is *Ni rang wo hao kai xin*. That means, "You make my heart feel super happy." That's what I'd say to Kai-Lan if I could. Giving her my voice makes my heart feel happy.

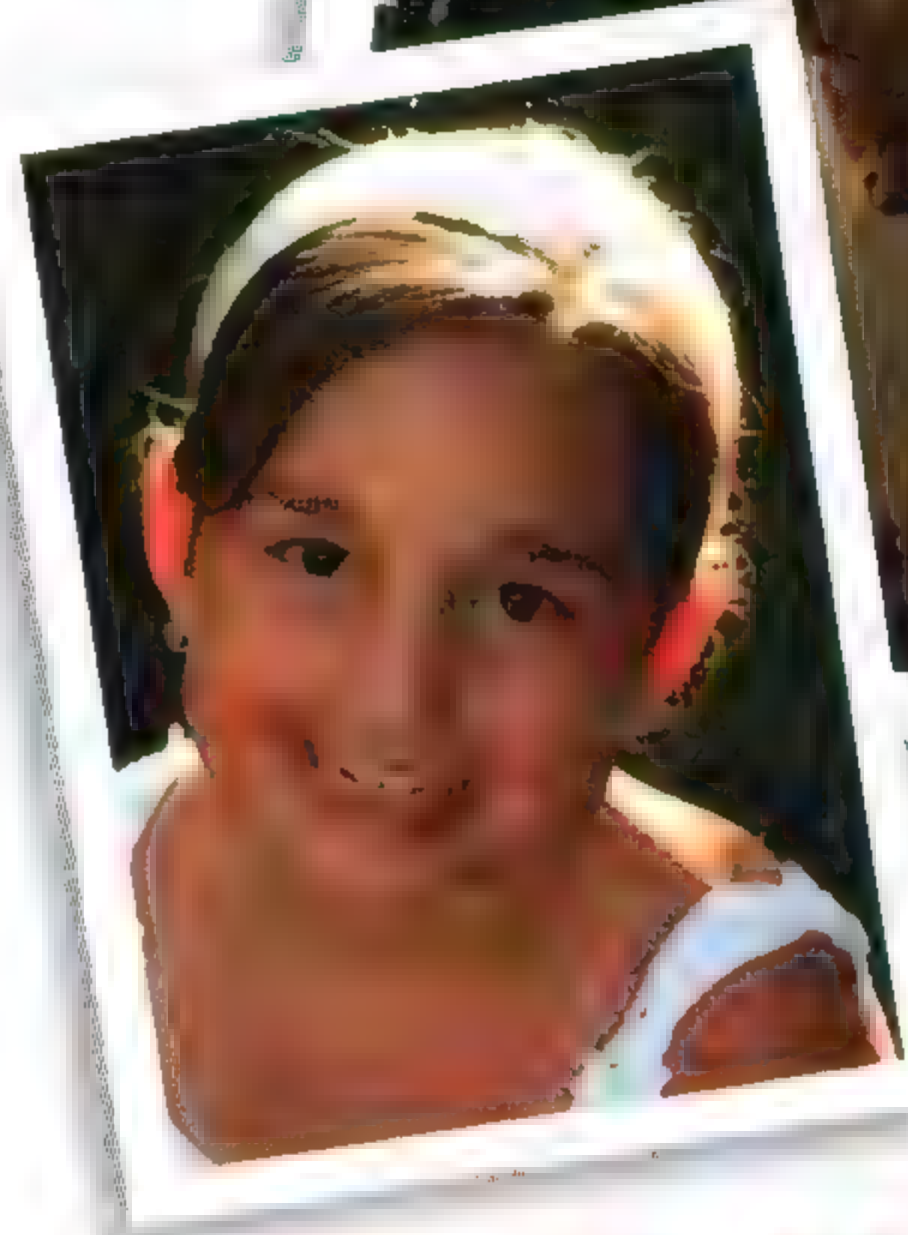
Photo: Jeff Xander



I take care of Missy by using a special tool to pick mud and stones out of her hooves.

Photos: Weron Photography





Performing at the White House

## ...compose my own music!



**Emily B.** Age 9, Illinois

I started taking piano lessons right before I turned five. But it feels as if I've been playing my whole life. When I sit at a piano, music flows out of me, just like breath. Learning the music of other composers is important, but I also write my own pieces. I find music everywhere. I've written songs about things I see in nature, people I meet, stuff I read in books. My family likes to play a game where they shout out something—such as, "Raindrops sliding down a window!"—and hearing what song I can make to match it.

Playing the piano is easy for me, but I still work hard at it. I usually practice for a few hours a day, and formal lessons take up a few hours a week. When I'm getting ready for a big performance, I practice more often. I've gotten to do some fun performances at music festivals, in major concert halls, at the White House, in other countries, and even on TV.

Mostly I don't feel different from anyone else. I like baking and making crafts and playing outside. But it's so exciting when I get letters from people I don't know—sometimes from halfway around the world. People write letters saying that they like my music or that they've learned to play some of my pieces from my published music books or else from videos they have found online. It doesn't make me feel famous, though—that's not what matters to me. I just like to know that people feel happy when they hear my music. That makes me feel really good.

...run my



# own dance studio!

Amiya A. Age 11, Michigan

**N**othing in my life has given me more joy than dancing. I love it all—modern, jazz, tap, ballet, hip-hop, even flamenco. About two years ago I came up with an idea for how to share my passion with kids who couldn't afford expensive dance lessons. My plan? Get a school bus, paint it pink, replace the seats with dance barres, and hit the road. I wanted to create a mobile studio to teach kids about dance and how to have fun with exercise. I sketched plans for the bus on a little piece of paper and talked about it with my mom.

To be honest, I didn't think it would work out. But, if you have a dream and you work hard, your dream just might come true. One day last year, my mom surprised me. I jumped up and down when I saw the pink bus for the first time. From the glitter on the ceiling to the huge mirror on the wall and the sign on the door that says "Dance Street," it is the most amazing thing ever.

My mobile dance studio takes off with my great-uncle driving. People point, honk, and take pictures when they see us on the road. When we get to a school, the kids (I can fit up to 12) pile on the bus for half-hour tap, ballet, and hip-hop lessons. The kids always tell me how much they love dancing in the bus. I love teaching those kids. I call them my rising stars. ★



My studio is inside an old school bus!



Teaching ballet to my students



## Show Your Style



Start with a tri-fold display board. You may want to ask an adult to trim a few inches off the bottom so it's the right height. Cover the board with decorative paper using double-sided tape.

### Tip:

Try a calming color such as blue or green. It could help you relax when you're cramming for tomorrow's quiz.

## Handy Hanger

Paint a wooden craft stick. While it dries, cut 4 pieces of ribbon. Using Glue Dots, attach each ribbon to the back of the craft stick. Then attach the stick (ribbon-side down) to the board with craft glue. Let dry. Use clothespins to clip notes and photos to the ribbons.

## Pretty Pockets

Reuse old envelopes to make colorful storage pockets. Cut flaps off used greeting card envelopes. Stick the envelopes to the board—address-side down—with double-sided tape. Fill with flashcards or other papers.

### Tip:

For extra color, string beads on each ribbon.

# Study





# Spot

Whether school is far away or at home, you can study in your own space!



## • Mini Memos

Use cork coasters (available at craft stores) for memo boards. Glue two together to make them usable for pushpins. Let dry. Paint the coasters with 1–2 coats of acrylic paint. Let dry. Attach the coasters to the board with craft glue.

## • Friend-ly Photos

Display fun photos in a plastic trading-card sleeve. You can also use the compartments to store small supplies such as paper clips, erasers, or your school ID. Attach the sleeve to the display board with Glue Dots.

## • Month Minder

A calendar can help you keep track of special days and due dates—just don't forget to write them down!

## • VIP Keeper

Very important papers need a very important place. Cut a pocket folder along its fold so you have two halves. Attach one half to the board with double-sided tape. Stash assignments or permission slips inside.

## • Pencil Bag

Use a gift bag for a pencil caddy. Attach with double-sided tape and fill with pens and pencils. ★



# YIKES!!



How to  
handle tricky,  
sticky situations  
and tough times  
at school.



# IF YOU DON'T MAKE THE TEAM



**1.** Talk to your mom or dad, but then comfort you. They'll probably remind you how tough the competition was and how many things you do especially well. You know it well already, but it will feel good to hear it again.

**2.** Talk to **another girl** who didn't get picked. Ask her the facts and what she thinks to do instead. Tell her how you feel, too.

**3.** It might be tough, but talk to **the coach** about what you can do to make the team next time. It helps to know exactly what you need to work on.

**4.** Let the hurt settle for a couple of days while you **think** about what to do next. Is there another sport you like? Try it if not, then...

**5.** Don't let one tryout stand between you and the winter sports. If you didn't make, say, the soccer team, look for a winter team in a slightly **less competitive** league. Before you join, go to a practice to see if you like the coach and the other girls.

**6.** Look good? Sign up. **Work** to **pull it all**. Make some new friends. You'll be a better player at the end of the year. At that point, you can try out again for that first team—unless, of course, it turns out you love the one you're on so much you want to stay where you are.

# IF YOU FALL DOWN THE STAIRS IN FRONT OF FOUR MILLION PEOPLE

**1.** **Assess your damage.** Check for damage. Don't try to stand up right away.

**2.** **Thank the people who help you gather up your stuff.** Don't rush as you put it back together. You don't want to drop it all again by taking away.

**3.** **Drink a joke.** Well, that was graceful.

Next time, I'm taking the elevator.

I can teach you how to do that if you want.

Have I stopped bouncing yet?

**4. CAREFULLY.**

Who are you?  
I think I have amnesia. Guess I can't take the history test.







# IF A FRIEND WANTS TO COPY YOUR HOMEWORK

1. You know it isn't fair for her to get credit for work you did. Say so. Take a breath and say no.

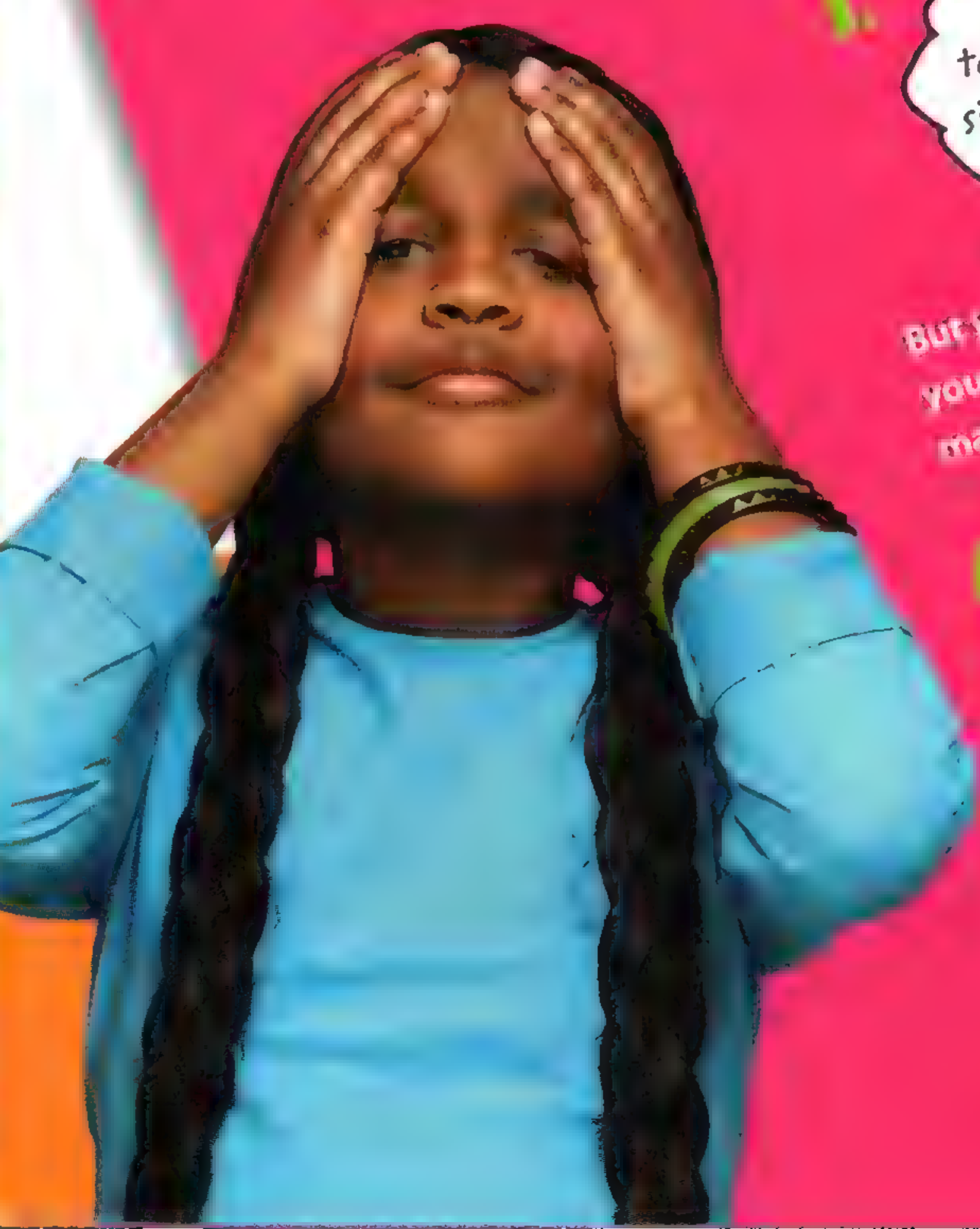
2. Offer to help her study if she's having trouble with the material.

3. Your friend might feel **FRUSTRATED** (by not getting what she wants).

**SCARED** (of a bad grade).

or **ASHAMED** (because she knows she's in the wrong).

All these things may make her mad. Let her feel that way. Be nice and calm but stay strong. If she keeps it up, tell her you're going to argue with you about this. I'm doing now. See you tomorrow. If there's any kind of threat, they behave better next time. And she won't ask you to do this sort of thing again.



# IF YOU FLUNK A TEST

1. Your first thought may be: I'm going to have to drop out of school since I'm so **STUPID**.

But you're not. Flunking means you didn't understand the material. You can fix that.

2. The second thought may be:

I'm going to flunk this course.

No. Not on the basis of **one** test. You won't.

3. Third thought: I think I'll tear this up into atoms.

Not a good idea. For one thing, your parents will find out anyway—guaranteed. For another, you need to **look at it** to see what you missed.

4. Ask your teacher to sit down with you before or after school and go over **what you missed**. Make a list of the things you don't understand.

5. Get somebody to work with you on that material at home: your parents, your big brother, the teenager next door. Give the subject some **extra time** each day. The work's not going to get easy in one day or two, but give it a month and you'll be understanding more and doing better.



# IF YOUR TEACHER HATES YOU



1. What seems to **irritate** her most? The times you and your friend talk in class? Your handwriting? Even if you think she's coming down on you unfairly, try stepping up your act. Talk a little less. Take more care with your writing. Make effort on your end, and maybe all it takes to soften her up.
2. Talk to your **friends** after class. Do they think she dislikes you? If they don't see the problem, maybe it's not there.
3. Do your friends think she dislikes them, too? Maybe she's just all-round **crabby**. It's not pleasant, but at least it isn't personal.
4. Is there a parent/teacher conference coming up? Maybe your **mom or dad** can find out what's bugging her. Be sure to tell them that you're a student to have in class, and you can relax.
5. When all else fails, just **do the work**. Do your best. Don't worry about her. You're getting a lesson in working with a difficult person. Luckily, she won't be your teacher forever.



# IF ALL ELSE FAILS

You've got a secret weapon against all kinds of trouble, and that **secret weapon** is you.

- \* Get advice when you can.
- \* Learn what you can, but don't look to others for all the answers.
- \* You can stand on your own two feet.
- \* You've got a good brain and common sense.
- \* Trust yourself. You'll be able to handle just about anything. \*

a girl's guide to **sticky situations**



how to tackle tricky, icky problems and tough times

More advice for solving tough problems can be found in **A Smart Girl's Guide to Sticky Situations**, available in bookstores.





# Back-to-Class

## Blast

Gear up for the new year with a school-themed party!



### Do-It-Yourself School

Here's your chance to find out what school would be like if you were in charge! Transform your house into a school of your own—name it after yourself, your best friend, or even your pet! Put signs such as "Cafeteria" on the kitchen door and "Principal" on your parents' door. Decorate with your own school colors, too.

### Invitation

Write party details on the first page of a mini composition notebook. Add a bookmark for extra style: Cut a ribbon that's more than twice as long as the notebook. Open the notebook to the back and glue the bottom half of the ribbon next to its spine. Let dry. Tie a bead on the ribbon. Ask your friends to bring their notebooks to the party.

Come to a  
Back-to-Class  
Blast

Where:  
Kate's House

When:  
Saturday, August 21  
at 1:00

Bring this notebook  
for a fun game!



## Banner Year

Show your spirit with a pennant banner! First, cover your workspace. Then, using scrapbook paper in your school colors, cut out

triangles. Use Glue Dots to attach the pennants to a long piece of ribbon. Hang the banner across a doorway or wherever you'd like.

## Locker Lock-Up

As guests arrive, let each girl choose a piece of paper with a combination on it. (Only one should have the correct combination.) When the party begins, take turns trying to open the combination lock. Whoever opens it wins a prize!

25  
33



## Dance 101

Dream up a new dance in "gym class." First choose a song. Then assign each guest a different dance move such as a kick or spin. Each girl thinks of her own way to do that move. After each girl has practiced, she teaches it to the other girls. At the end, put them together into one routine.



## Pencil Block

Make a personalized pencil holder you can use all year. Paint a styrofoam block in one of your school colors. Let dry. Cut a mini pennant out of felt and attach it to the front of the block with craft glue. Spell your name on your block with letter beads and Glue Dots. Poke three pencils into the top and decorate with an AG pencil topper.

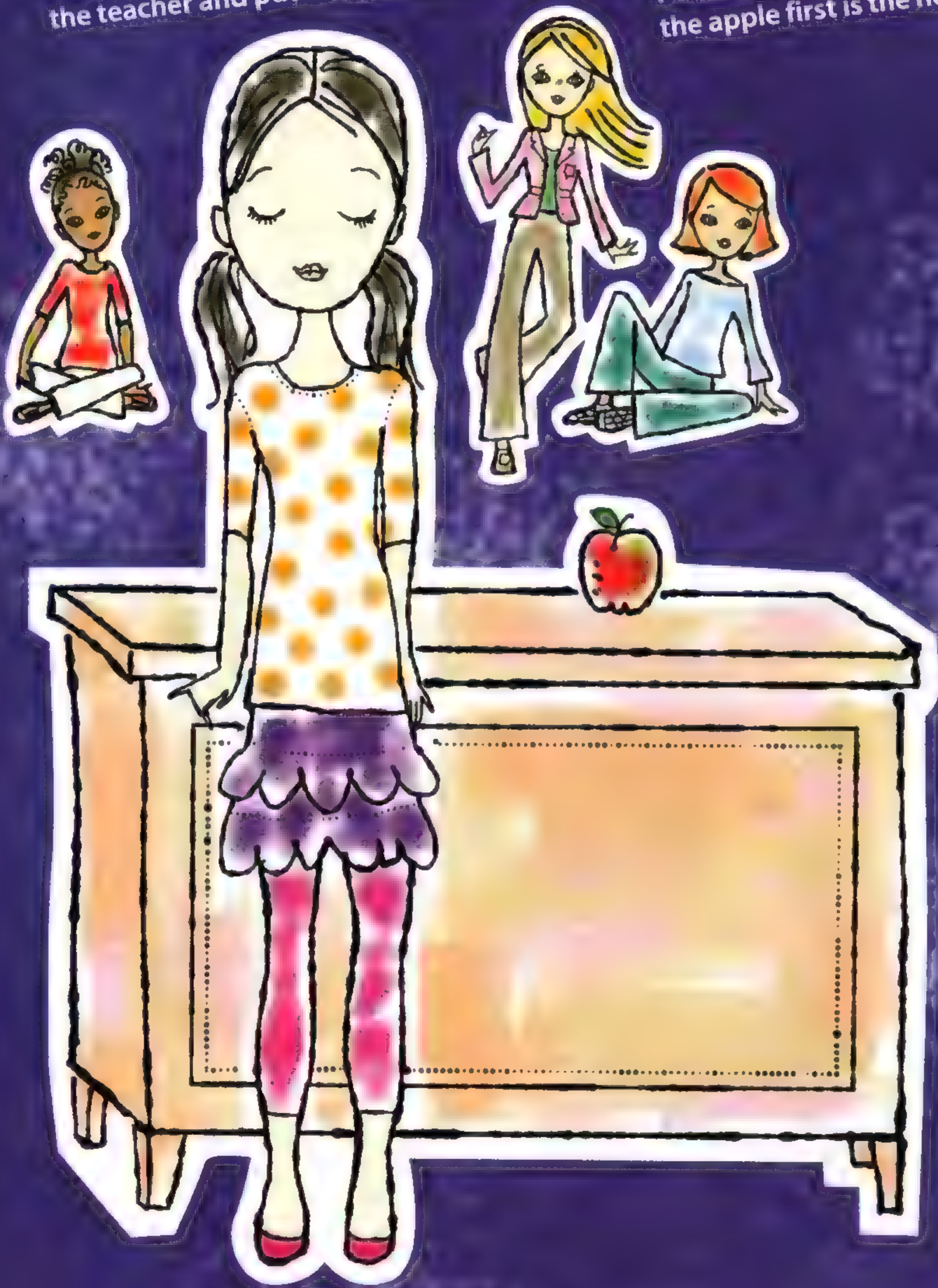




## Homeroom Dash

For this game, one girl is the "teacher" and everyone else is the "class." The class sits at one end of the room and the teacher stands at the opposite end. Place a table in front of the teacher and put an apple on the table.

To begin, the teacher turns her back to the class, and the class rushes toward the apple. When the teacher says "Class!" and turns around, everyone should freeze. If the teacher catches anyone moving, that player has to start over. Whoever touches the apple first is the new homeroom teacher.



## Glowing Reports

Before you begin, have each girl write her name in her mini notebook. (Be sure to have extras in case someone forgets hers.) Pass the notebooks in a circle and take turns writing nice comments about one another. Maybe your friends always cheer you up or you like their style—this is a chance to let them know!

## PB&J Platter

Try PB&Js for dessert! Spread jelly on a peanut butter cookie. Place another cookie on top and you've got a "sandwich." Serve with mini cartons of milk.



## Pep Band

Give each girl a plastic bangle bracelet and embroidery floss in your school colors. Attach one end of the floss to the inside of the bracelet with a Glue Dot. Wrap floss to cover the whole bracelet. Cut the floss and attach the end to the inside with a Glue Dot.

Wrap the bracelet with a different color to make stripes. Be sure to attach the ends of the floss to the inside of the bracelet with Glue Dots.





Kate,  
You always  
make me laugh!  
Your friend,  
Robyn

## Cool Cafeteria

★ Ask an adult to help you make a homemade version of your favorite school lunch—spaghetti, build-your-own subs . . . you pick! Serve it cafeteria-style on paper trays with dividers.



## Sum It Up

Use your math smarts to win prizes. (You should have school supplies on hand for the prizes. Be sure that there are enough for each girl to receive the same amount.) Take turns rolling dice. If the sum of the two numbers rolled is six or greater, the player gets to choose a prize. If the sum is

less than six, she passes the dice to the next girl. Keep playing until each girl has the same number of prizes. (When a girl reaches her limit, she stops playing.) Note: For a bigger challenge, multiply the two numbers. Then players choose a prize when the product is 10 or greater.



## Take-Home Treats

Turn ordinary lunch sacks into fun favor bags for your guests. After filling, fold down the top of a paper bag twice and punch two holes (about 3 inches apart) in the folded section. Thread ribbons through the holes and tie a knot. Use a letter sticker to put your guest's initial on the bag. ★



# Be the Queen of Halloween

Take this quiz to find out more about your style, and then read on for costume ideas that fit your personality.

## 1. At a fall festival, you would have the most fun...

- a. dressing up as a scarecrow in funny clothes.
- b. running through a corn maze. The first one to find the way out wins!
- c. in the pumpkin-painting tent. You want your pumpkin to be one-of-a-kind.



## 2. Which of these animals best matches your personality?

- a. Peacock—I'd love to have those beautiful feathers!
- b. Cheetah—It would be amazing to be one of the fastest animals on the planet.
- c. Chameleon—How cool would it be to change colors?

## 4. Which one of these things do you wish you had in your room?

- a. walk-in closet
- b. air-hockey table
- c. easel with canvas

## 5. Which of these shirts would you prefer to wear?

- a. polka-dot ruffled shirt
- b. sports jersey
- c. T-shirt with unique design



## 3. When working on a science project for school, you will most likely...

- a. design an eye-catching poster board.
- b. turn your project into a game that your classmates can play.
- c. draw charts and pictures to illustrate your points.





**6. For your dream birthday party, you'd love to invite your friends to...**

- a. go shopping in Paris.
- b. play a game in your favorite team's stadium.
- c. visit a famous art museum.



**7. For a campout with your family, you would most likely bring...**

- a. a suit-outfit for hiking.
- b. your bike and a Frisbee.
- c. a camera— you want to capture that beautiful sunset!



**8. Which of these activities sounds the most fun to do with a dog?**

- a. Give her a bath and brush her —you want her to look her best!
- b. Play catch in the backyard.
- c. Draw a funny picture of her while she "poses."



**9. Which of these items would we most likely find in your schoolbag?**

- a. sunglasses
- b. sneakers
- c. sketchbook



**10. If you could pick a dream class to take at school, you would choose...**

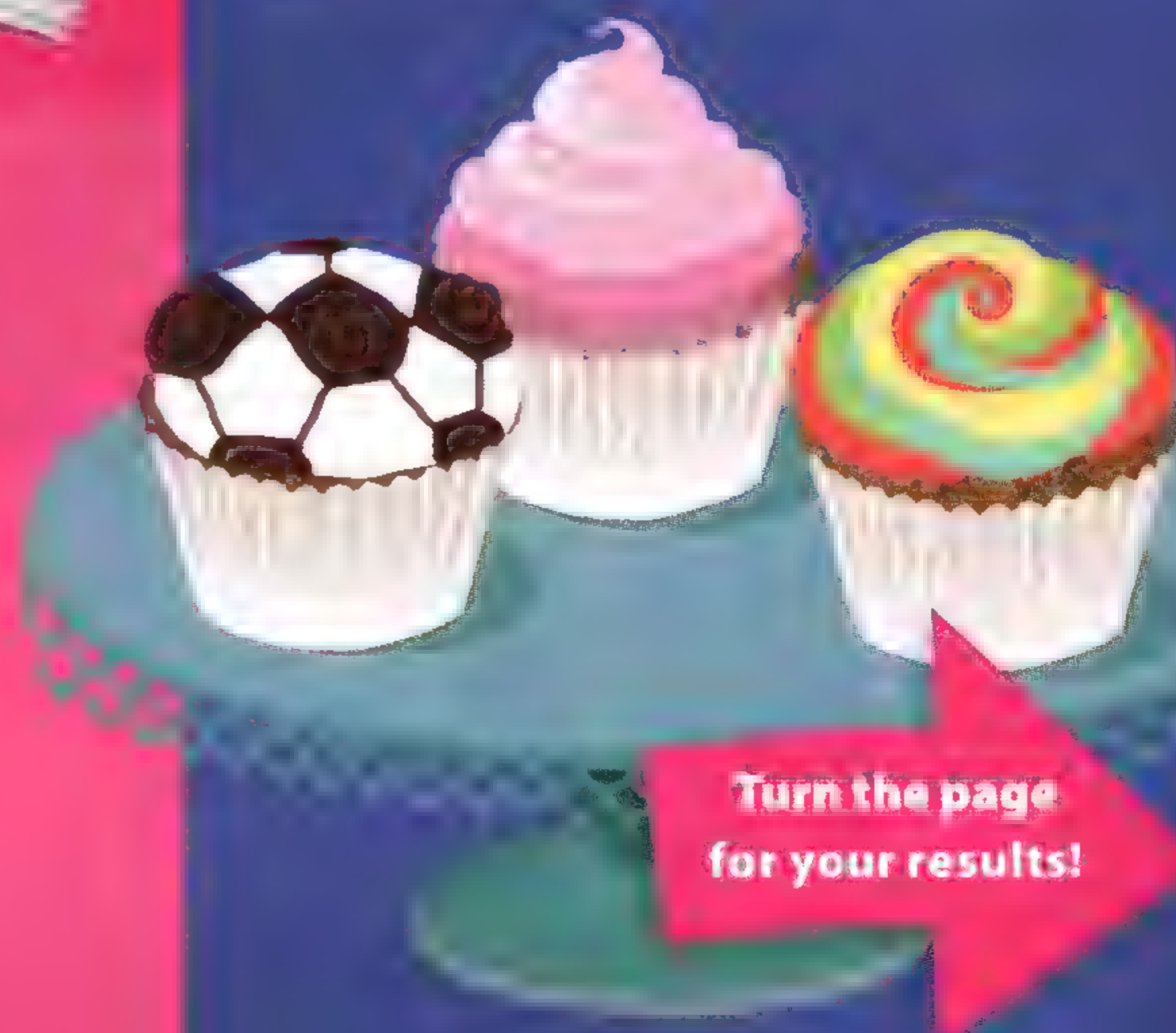
- a. Fashion Design
- b. Hip-Hop Dancing
- c. Creative Writing

**11. When you clean your room, you...**

- a. put everything into bins organized by color. At least your clutter will look pretty on the outside.
- b. make it into a game. Can you toss your T-shirt into the hamper from across the room?
- c. get distracted and start doodling.

**12. Which of these cupcakes would you like to eat?**

- a. pink, sparkly cupcake
- b. cupcake that looks like a soccer ball
- c. rainbow-swirl cupcake



**Turn the page for your results!**




## Mostly A's: Fabulous Fashionista

It's clear that you love fashion! You like to make anything look its best by putting together cute, unique outfits or choosing the perfect color scheme for your room.


**Movie Star:** Wear your favorite dress with big sunglasses and lots of sparkly jewelry. Write a movie title on the cover of a thick notebook—it'll look like you're carrying a script. You can carry a dressed-up stuffed animal in a purse, too!



**Magazine Cover:**  Using a large piece of cardboard, ask a parent to cut a hole for your head in the middle of the cardboard. Draw an outfit under your head and write a title for your magazine. Hold the magazine cover up to your face while you are trick-or-treating.

## Mostly B's: Sporty and Spectacular

You are a girl who is interested in sports of all kinds, whether it's soccer, dance, or surfing. You are often seen wearing your favorite team's jersey or a comfortable outfit just in case you want to join a pick-up softball game.

**Surfer:**  Wear beachy clothes and beads in your hair. Ask a parent to help you cut out a surfboard shape from a large piece of cardboard. Paint the surfboard with colorful designs.



**Olympic Athlete:** Pretend that you are a world-famous athlete. Wear colors that represent your country, and make a medal using gold foil and ribbon. Carry a prop that shows your favorite sport, such as a snowboard or a pair of ice skates.

## Mostly C's: Amazing Artist

People often see you with a sketchbook or paintbrush in your hand. You are a very creative person, and you like that your style stands out from the crowd.

**Walking Doodles:** Look like a big sheet of paper filled with your doodles. Using a white shirt, pants, and shoes, doodle all over the clothes using fabric paint and permanent markers.



**Creative Colors:** Show your true colors and wear a costume that looks like a rainbow. Look in your closet and wear pieces in lots of colors, such as differently colored shoes, bright knee-high socks, and colorful hair accessories. ★



# Mini Mysteries

Are you a super sleuth? Turn the page to solve these three mini mysteries!

Where is the puppy?



What are the costumes?



Where is the locker?





# The Lost Locker

by Rick Walton



Sarah's first day at school will be a disaster if she can't find her locker. Where is it?



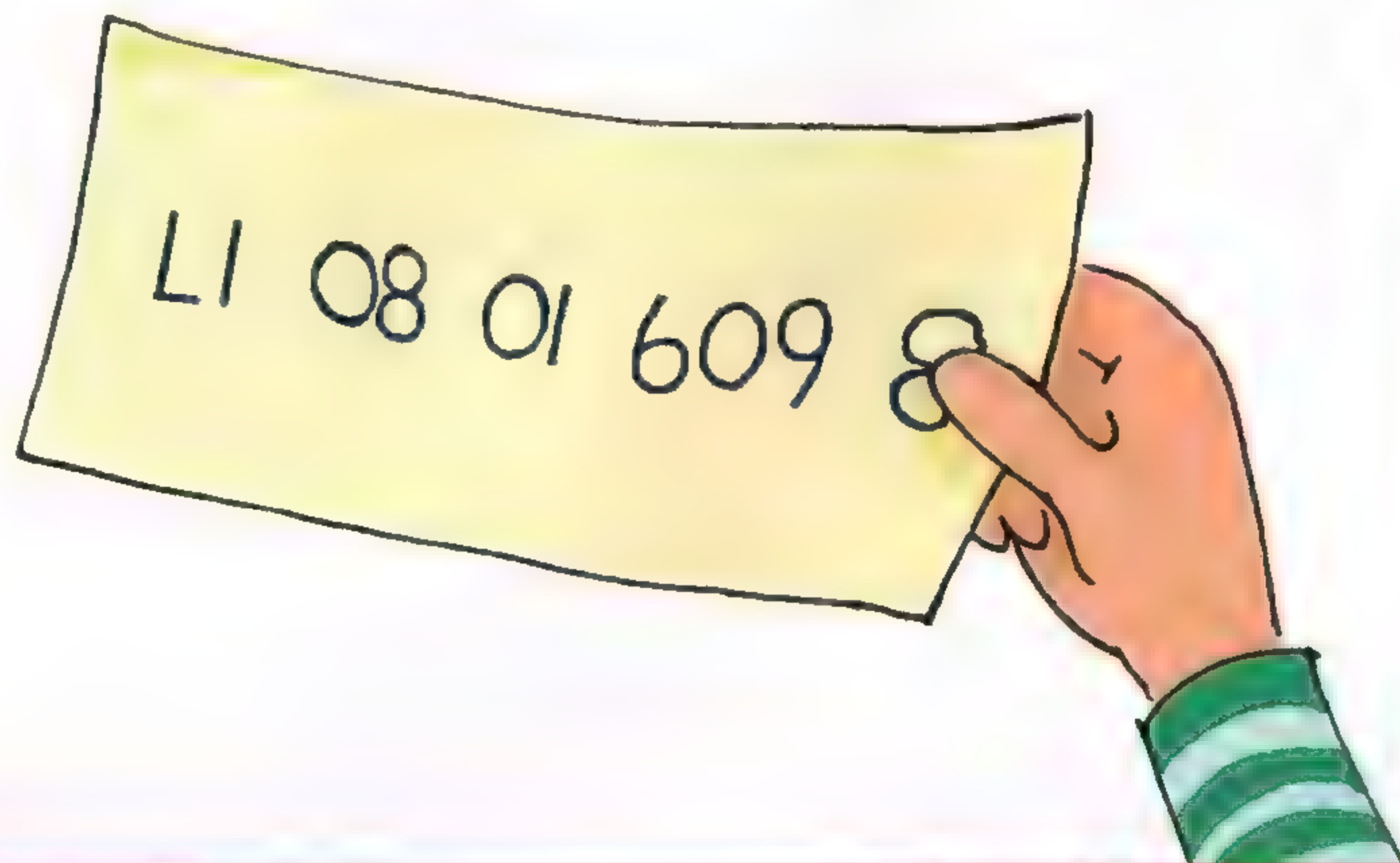
Sarah took a deep breath and walked into Churchill Elementary. She had just moved to town, and this was her first day at her new school. Sarah and her parents took a tour of the school the week before, but this was Sarah's first day on her own. She headed for a door with a sign that said "Counseling Center." That's where she had been told to go first.

She walked in and introduced herself to Ms. Jacobs, the counselor. "Hi, I'm Sarah Sorensen. Today's my first day here."

Ms. Jacobs said, "Hi, Sarah. Nice to meet you. We're so glad you're here!" She reached into a drawer and pulled out a piece of paper. "This is your class schedule."

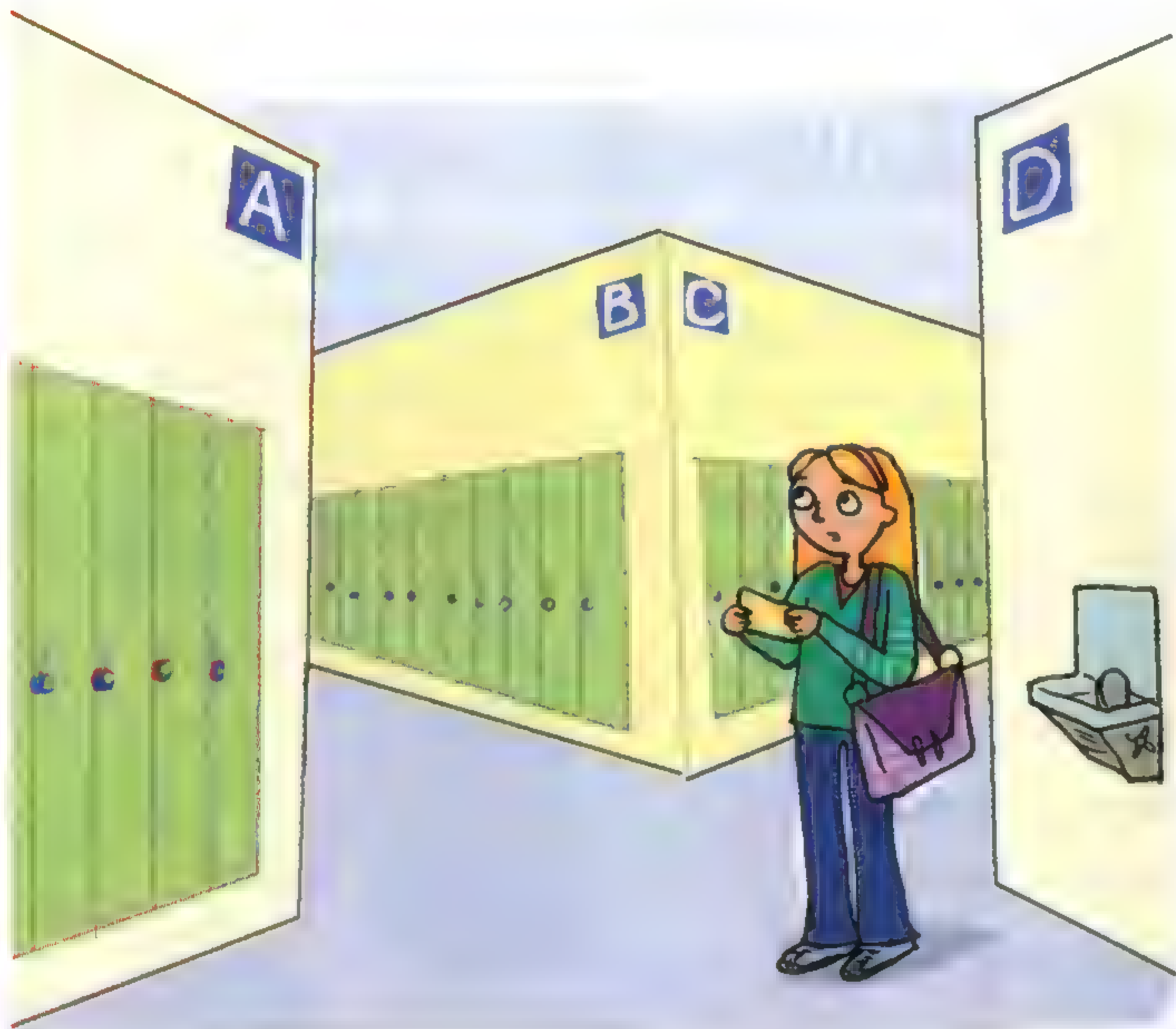
"Thanks!" Sarah said. She took it and studied it. She was pretty happy with her classes. When she looked up, Ms. Jacobs handed her a card with her locker number and combination on it.

Ms. Jacobs gave Sarah the instructions for opening her locker and invited Sarah to come in anytime she needed help.





Sarah thanked Ms. Jacobs and headed off to find her locker. When she reached the main entrance, she studied her card, trying to remember Ms. Jacobs's instructions. *Let's see, she thought. First comes the hall and locker number. Then there's the combination: left to the first number, right to the second, back left to the third. Should be easy.*



"Yeah," said Sarah. "I'm trying to find my locker. Do you know where L hall is?"

"L hall?" the girl asked. "There is no L hall."

"That's funny," said Sarah. "That's what it says on this card that Ms. Jacobs gave me."

"Can I see your card?" asked the girl. She took the card from Sarah. "Aha!" she said. "I know where your locker is." She showed Sarah the card again. Both girls laughed, and they headed straight for Sarah's locker.

Where is Sarah's locker?

Four hallways extended out. Each hallway was labeled with a letter—A, B, C, D. No L hall. *Maybe it branches off from one of these halls. Or maybe L hall stands for the "lunchroom hall."* That would be great, having my locker near the lunchroom, Sarah thought. She headed down A hall. When she reached the end, she didn't find any other halls. *Hmmm*, she thought.

B hall was the same. As she headed back to the entrance, Sarah heard someone say, "Can I help you?" She looked up and saw a girl about her age.



To read the answer, hold the page up to a mirror.

left to 10, right to 80, left to 12.  
other words, B hall, locker number 009. Combination  
viewed the correct way, the card said 009108012. IN  
ANSWER: Sarah was holding the card upside down.



# A Tricky Halloween

by Rick Walton



Can Daisy and Noelle trick their friends and win best costume at the Halloween party?



"Maybe we should just be witches," said Noelle as she browsed through the clothes on the thrift store rack.

"Boring," said Daisy. "Half the girls at the party will be witches."

Best friends Noelle and Daisy always coordinated their costumes. In past years, they'd gone as cats, as vampires, and as rock stars. This year they wanted something fresh and new—something that nobody else had ever done. And they needed an idea fast if they were going to win the costume contest at tomorrow's party.

"I wish we had more money," said Noelle. "Then we could buy one of those expensive costumes at the party store. Those costumes are awesome!" She put a striped shirt back on the rack.

"I thought the idea was to do something no one had ever done before," said Daisy. "If it's at a costume store, then it has been done before. Hey, that rhymes!"

Noelle held up a pair of red sneakers. "I could go as Little Red Running Shoes, and you could go as Goldie Socks."





The girls laughed. "At least it's original," said Daisy.

"Cheap, original, *and* funny," Noelle said. "What do you think?"

"Works for me," said Daisy.

The girls gave up on Noelle's idea when they realized that the red shoes were way too small and they couldn't find any gold socks.

"Back to nothing," said Daisy sadly. "This Halloween is tricky."

Noelle got a funny look on her face. "We could be tricky, too! I have an idea that I think could work." She told Daisy her idea, and they both laughed.

"That's perfect. It's cheap and funny, and best of all, we can make these costumes fast," Daisy said. "Let's find some T-shirts and then head to my house. I've got plenty of craft supplies we can use."

When Daisy and Noelle showed up at the party, it took a while for their friends to figure out who the girls were dressed as. Once they did, Noelle and Daisy won the contest for cleverest costumes.

**What were Daisy and Noelle's costumes?**



alphabet with no L—Noelle!  
had days + E—Daisy! And Daisy's shirt had the  
but they came dressed as each other! Noelle's shirt  
**Answer:** They came dressed as Noelle and Daisy—



# Poor Little Puppy

by Rick Walton



Fluffball is missing! But who could have taken the dog right out from under the girls' noses?

"Fluffball's so cute!" said Sage to her friend on the phone.

"Oh, I want to meet her," Hope said.

"How about tonight?" asked Sage. "I'll ask Mom and see if we can have a sleepover. I'll invite Abby and Marie, too."

"OK. Bye!" Hope said, and she hung up.

Later, Sage opened the door for her friends. "You got here just in time," she said.

"We're about to have a storm."

As though on cue, the thunder cracked. Immediately, from behind Sage came a loud, sharp barking. The barking continued ferociously as Sage moved aside, revealing a poodle puppy.

"She always barks at thunder," shouted Sage over the roar. The girls laughed, adding to the noise.

The racket stopped. "I don't know who's louder, the thunder or the dog," said Marie.

"She is loud," said Sage. "Poor thing. I hope she gets over it."

Hope reached down to pick up Fluffball, but the puppy scurried away and hid behind Sage's legs.

"She's a very shy dog," said Sage.

"She follows me everywhere. But once she gets used to you, she'll let you pet her."

The girls watched Fluffball quietly. Then Sage said, "I'm hungry. Let's eat!"

"Sounds good to me," said Hope.

The girls headed to the kitchen with Fluffball close at Sage's heels.

"How about PB&J?" asked Sage.

"That sounds great," said Marie.

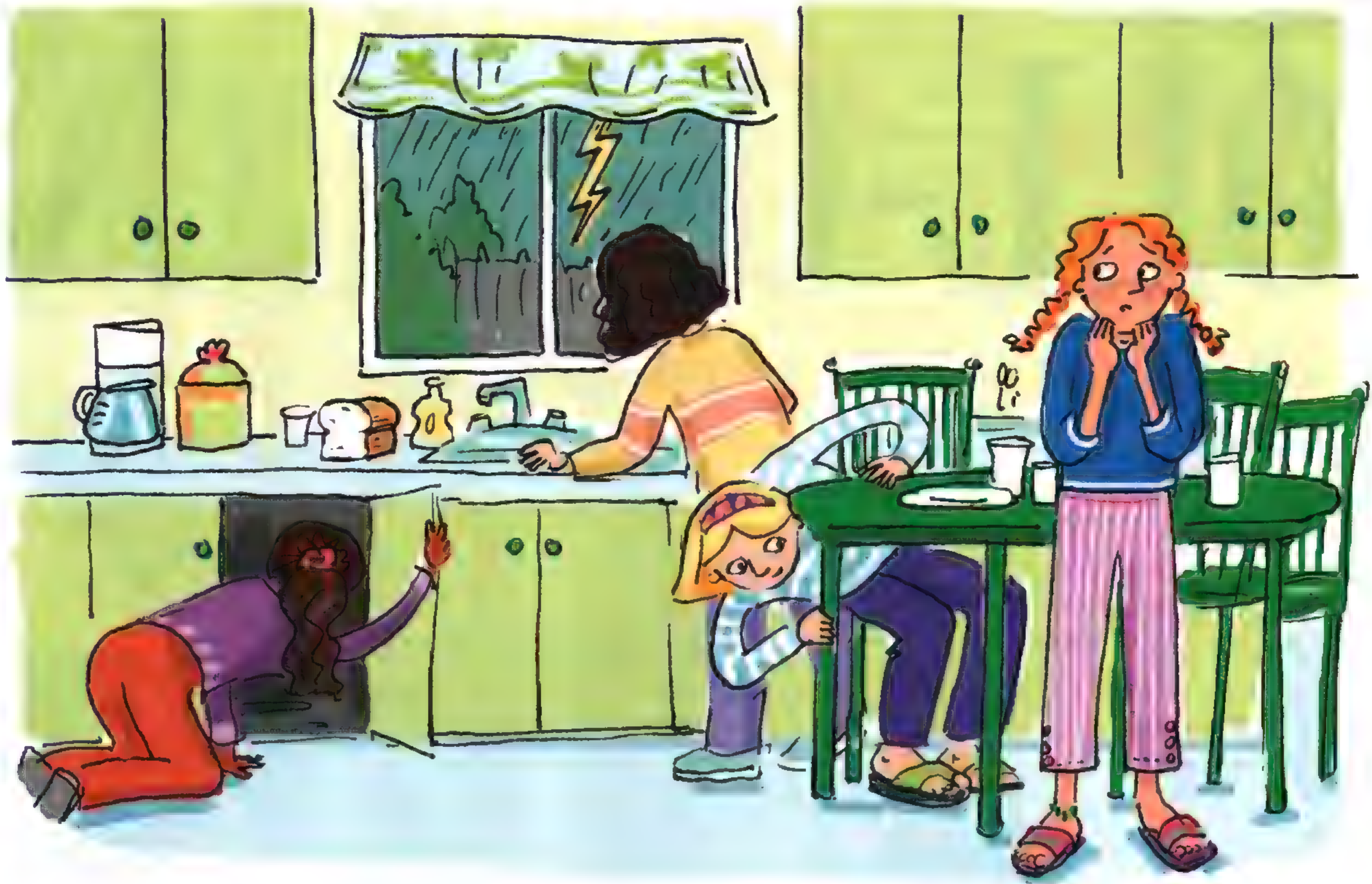
Sage pulled out bread, peanut butter, and jelly, and the girls went to work. Fluffball begged at their feet until Sage gave her a bit of bread. The puppy gobbled down the bread, and then sniffed around the kitchen for more.

"At least she's not hanging around your feet," said Marie.

"Yeah," said Sage. "That's a good sign. Maybe she's feeling more comfortable. She







likes to explore, but she always stays in the same room with me."

"Almost ready," said Sage. "The only thing we need now is root beer. There's some in the garage. I'll go out and get it."

When Sage returned with the soda, the other girls had the sandwiches on the table. "Looks good," said Sage.

The sandwich platter was almost empty when thunder clapped again. The girls covered their ears, expecting to hear Fluffball's barking.

But all they heard was silence.

They looked around. "Where's Fluffball?" asked Abby. "I don't hear her."

Sage jumped up and started searching the kitchen. With the other girls' help, she looked under chairs and in boxes, drawers, and cabinets. She even opened up the refrigerator.

No Fluffball.

"I'm worried," said Sage. "Where is she?"

"We'd better spread out and look for her.

She must be scared," said Marie.

The girls crawled under beds, peeked behind sofas and chairs, ducked under tables, and poked in closets. They searched every room in the house.

No Fluffball.

"She's gotten out and run away!" said Hope.

"I don't think she would do that," said Sage in a voice filled with fear.

"Let's think about this," said Abby. "When was the last time we saw Fluffball?"

Then Marie smiled. "I know where she is!"

And Marie led the girls right to Fluffball.

**Where was Fluffball?**



and had shut her in. ★  
root beer. Sage hadn't noticed her, though,  
she'd followed Sage, who went there for the  
**Answer:** The puppy was in the garage, where



# DOLL-O-WEEN

Throw a Halloween party for your doll and her friends!



## Creature Feature

Set a spooky scene with Halloween creatures. Use a paper punch or scissors to cut mini spiders and bats out of black construction paper. Use black thread to hang them.

## Ghostly Giveaways

For a ghoulish favor, give your doll's guests little lollipop ghosts. Drape a square of tissue paper over a mini lollipop, and wrap a rubber band around the stick. Add a ghost face with a marker.



## Creepy Candy

Don't forget the treats! Wrap colored chocolate candies in cellophane or foil for tiny trick-or-treat goodies.







## Hair-Raising Accessories

Give your doll a spine-tingling style by placing plastic spider rings in her hair. Remember, no matter what hairstyle you do, use only a wire wig brush.


## Boo-tiful Backdrop

Cut orange or black streamers into narrow strips to give your doll's room a Halloween touch. Hang the mini streamers along walls, lay them on the table, or twist them around chairs. **Note:** Never hang streamers over lightbulbs, lamps, or other heat sources.

## Bat Wings

Dress your doll in this easy-to-make costume.



**1.**  Ask an adult to use pinking shears to cut black 100% cotton knit fabric into a 14-by-28-inch rectangle. Round the bottom corners with the shears.

**2.** Raise your doll's arms. Drape the fabric over her shoulders and arms so that the rounded corners are at the bottom. Then pull the fabric to her thumbs, and use chalk to mark thumb-holes. Remove the fabric and snip a tiny cut at each mark. Insert your doll's thumbs into the holes. ★

More fun  
party ideas can be  
found in **Doll Parties**  
available in bookstores.

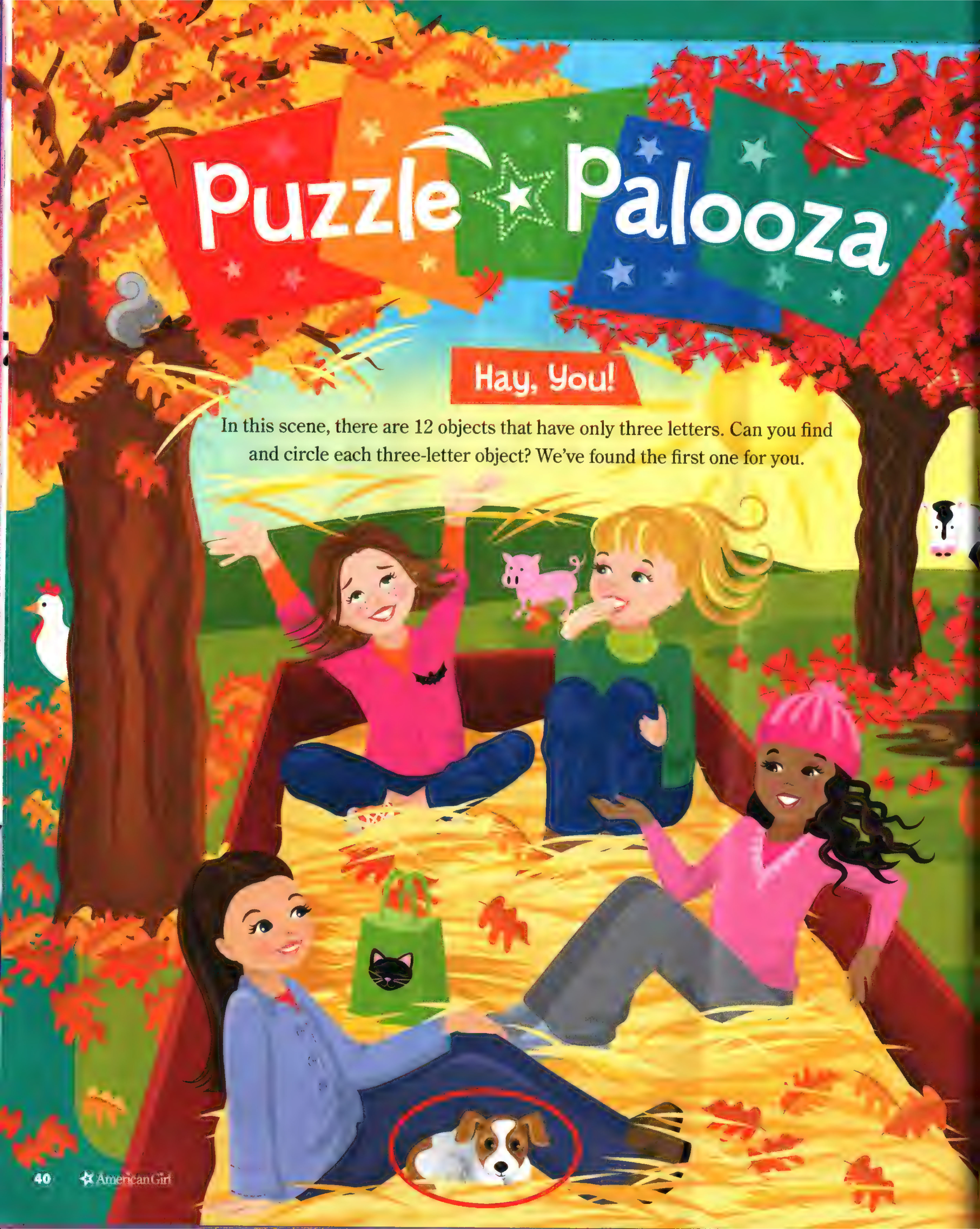




# Puzzle Palooza

Hay, You!

In this scene, there are 12 objects that have only three letters. Can you find and circle each three-letter object? We've found the first one for you.



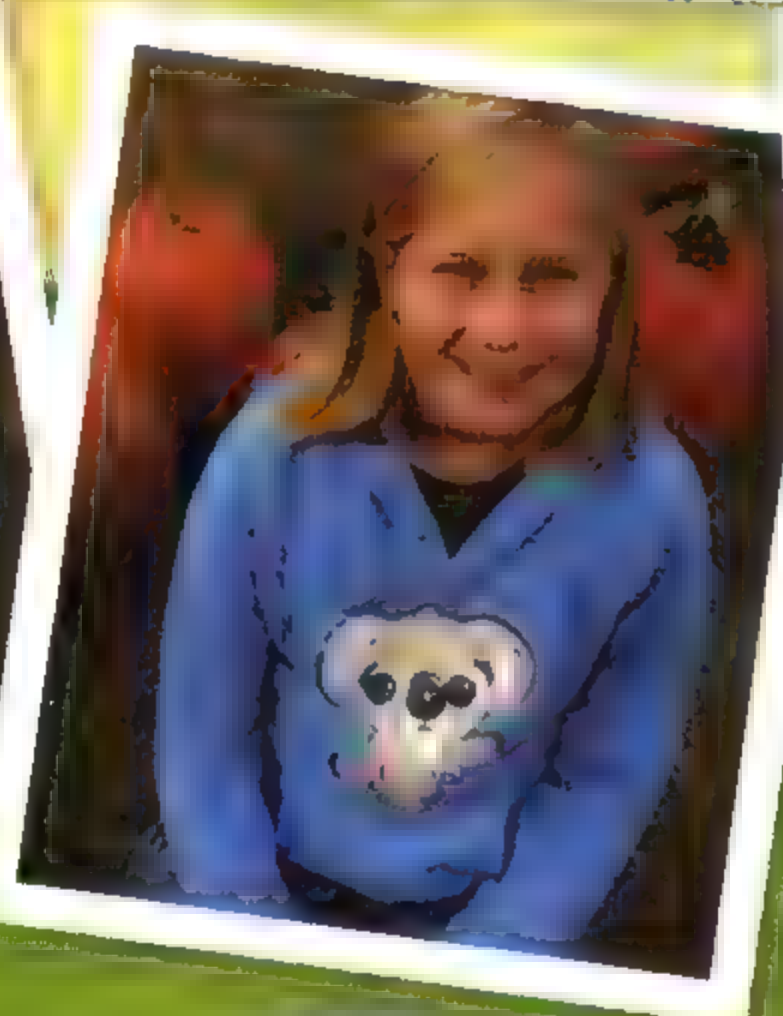


## Photo Fun

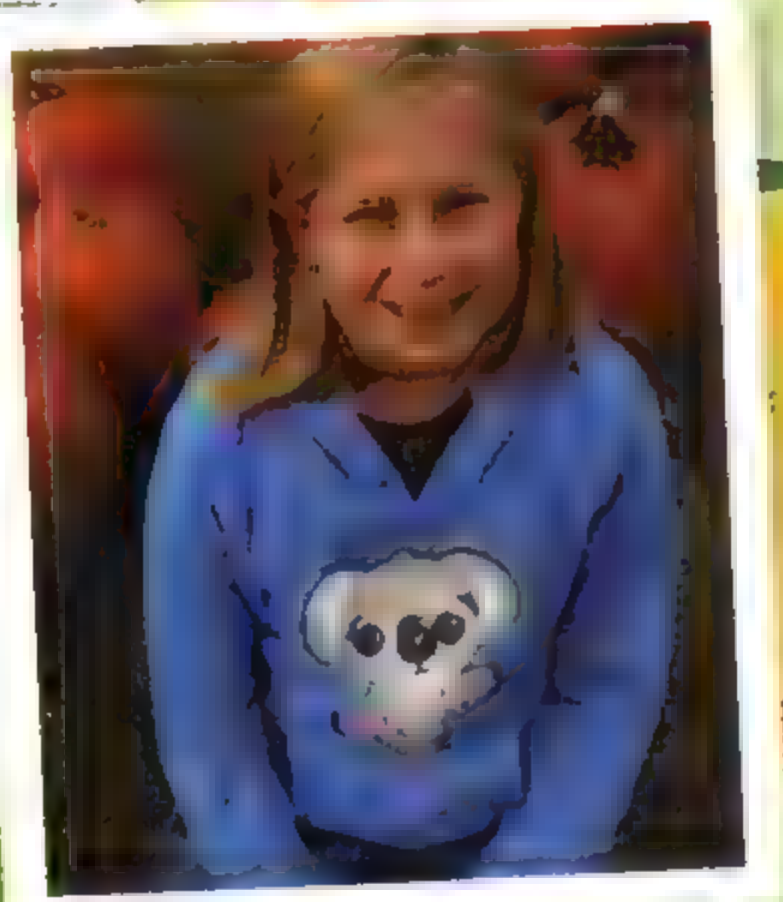
Ashley A., age 10, from Florida is having a fun day at a pumpkin patch. Look at the blurry photo. Which shot below is its match?



1. ☐



2. ☐



3. ☐

## Patch Match

There are three sets of matching pumpkins in this patch. Can you find them?



Send your fun  
photos to the  
address on  
page 7.

## Leaf It to Me

See if you can find your  
way through this maze.

This puzzle idea  
was submitted by this  
issue's Puzzle Pal.



Sakaya P.  
Age 13, Virginia

Start

End

Want to be an  
AG Puzzle Pal? Send  
puzzles, secret codes,  
or brainteasers created  
by YOU to the address  
on page 7.



# This issue's Buzzword is...

**susurrus**

**How to say it:** SUH-ser-us

**What it means:** a whispering or rustling sound

**One way to use it:** Sophie's favorite thing about fall is listening to the susurrus of the leaves on a windy day.

The word "susurrus" is hidden in these leaves four times. Look for them forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally.

S U  
E Y G S  
N R S B V U  
U R S U S U R R  
L R C R S D R A S R  
U T H P M U U E F C G U  
S S U S U R R U S L R T Z S  
D F S S U R R R G U S L N O T U  
S E G Y H D S G U J D A S F Y U Z S  
U R Y S B G J K I S P S R C H S S R L O  
N J K S O D N S U R R U S U S F E Y J E R S

## Answer Box

S U  
E Y G S  
N R S B V U  
U R S U S U R R  
L R C R S D R A S R  
U T H P M U U E F C G U  
S S U S U R R U S L R T Z S  
D F S S U R R R G U S L N O T U  
S E G Y H D S G U J D A S F Y U Z S  
U R Y S B G J K I S P S R C H S S R L O  
N J K S O D N S U R R U S U S F E Y J E R S

**Buzzword**



**Leaf It to Me**



**Patch Match**

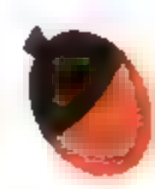


**Photo Fun**

2.



sun



nut



pig



hen



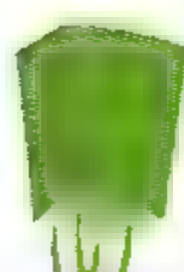
cow



hat



mud



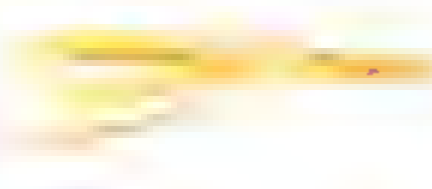
bag



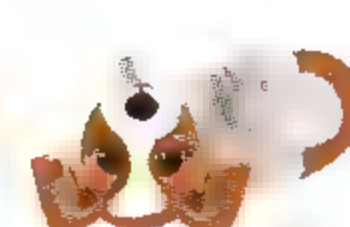
bat



cat



hay



dog

**Hay, You!**



# I PAWS FOR TREATS!



Photo: WilleeCole, 2010 Shutterstock



# PEEK-a-



Photo: © iStockphoto/EEI\_Tony

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# HELP!

*Dear American Girl,*

Every time I have to give a speech in class, my stomach hurts and I get so nervous that I can barely speak. How can I stop worrying?  
*shy*

Knowing your stuff can help you feel confident. So practice like crazy! Give the speech over and over to yourself in a mirror or to a parent. On the big day, wear an outfit you love, look into your classmates' eyes, and smile. Also, how about going first? Yikes, for sure—but that way, other people's reports can't psych you out.



*Dear American Girl,*

One of my friends comes over to my house a lot. We have fun, so I'm sure that she likes hanging out with me. But she never invites me to her house!  
*friend problem*

Your friend must have her reasons. Maybe her parents don't like her to have friends over. Maybe she has an annoying sibling. Or maybe she thinks your house is just more fun. Whatever the reason, it's probably nothing to worry about. You could try asking, "How come we never hang out at your house?" Otherwise, just keep on having fun.



*Dear American Girl,*

I feel so tired lately. I get sleepy at 6 or 7 o'clock, which is way before my bedtime. I'm in a few after-school activities but not enough to make me exhausted.  
*tired*

Because your body is growing and changing, you might need more sleep than you're getting. Set your bedtime a little earlier than usual. Go to bed and get up at the same time every day—on weekends, too. And tell your parents how you're feeling. If you don't perk up after getting more sleep, it's something to discuss with your doctor.



*Dear American Girl,*

I don't always use the right words when I talk. But my friend ALWAYS corrects me, and she's not very nice about it. How can I ask her to stop?  
*Frustrated!!!*

Next time she corrects you, speak up politely but firmly: "Listen, I might not always say the right thing, but I really don't like it when you correct me. Can you please stop?" Your friend might not realize how her words sound, so this could help. But don't be afraid to remind her if she forgets and starts correcting you again.





## MORE HELP!

Dear *American Girl*,

I have a hard time reading in school, so I started cheating off my friend's paper to get by. Then I got caught. I have to stop, but if I don't copy, I'll fail.

**Copycat**

But if you *do* copy, in a way you still fail, right? You know that cheating doesn't help you to learn. Every time you copy, you fall even further behind. Trying to improve your reading is a better way. Have a serious talk with your parents about your reading trouble. They and your teacher can help figure out why the subject is so tough for you and make a plan for getting your reading on track. Good luck.



Dear *American Girl*,

My friend's birthday party and a youth-group retreat are on the same day. I want to go to both, but I can't. How do I choose?

**Torn**

If you already told your friend or your youth group that you'd attend, you should stick to your word and go. But if you haven't yet

said yes to either, try listing all the reasons you should not miss each event. Comparing the lists might help you to decide which outing is more important for you to attend. If you still can't choose, flip a coin.



Dear *American Girl*,

I have braces, so I can't have gum or sticky candy. People always eat that stuff in front of me—even my own brother—and I feel really left out.

**Annoyed**

It's a bummer, but part of having braces is going without some foods for a while. Other people—



including your brother—shouldn't have to give things up just because you do. Carry safe snacks with you so that you won't feel left out when others get a treat. And when you're feeling bad about your braces, just picture the bright smile you'll have.



Dear *American Girl*,

I'm going to the same school that my older sisters attended. They were perfect students, so everyone is going to expect me to be perfect, too. But I'm not.

**Not-so-perfect**

It's hard feeling as if you're living in someone's shadow. When a teacher asks whether you're related to your sisters, answer cheerfully. The questions might get old, but try not to let yourself get upset about them. Because here's what's true: You do NOT have to be perfect. You do NOT have to be just like your sisters. Focus on doing the things you're good at and that you enjoy, and you'll shine as brightly as anyone. You're the all-time greatest you—and don't you forget it.







*Dear American Girl,*

I want to invite three girls to a sleepover. They're all good friends of mine, but they don't like one another—at all. I want all three to come, but I don't want any fights. Help!

*Stuck in the Middle*

Planning fun activities such as playing games or watching a movie might help, but you can't make people get along. Talk to each girl separately. Be honest about who else you've invited, and tell each that you'd like everyone to attend *and* to get along. Promise each girl that you won't be mad if she decides not to come. Then have fun at your sleepover, no matter how many friends attend.



*Dear American Girl,*

There's a big problem at my school—the cafeteria doesn't serve enough fruits or veggies at lunch. I think it's important to have healthier foods than what we get now. How can I tell the school what I believe?  
*Unhealthy Cafeteria*



Write a letter and ask a parent to help you find e-mail addresses for your school district's officials. (Be sure to say what you've learned at school about nutrition. After all, it makes sense that the school's own lunchroom should offer the same healthy foods that students learn about in class!) Even if the officials like your ideas and can change things, it might take time. For now, bring healthy stuff from home to keep yourself happy at lunchtime.



*Dear American Girl,*

I just joined an after-school club. Most of the girls never even smile at me, even though they talk and laugh with one another. What can I do to fit in?  
*Left Out*

This is not the time to hang back and let yourself be quiet. Give the others a chance to get to know you better. Be the first to smile and say hi. Offer a compliment ("Hey, I like your backpack!") or ask a question ("Mind if I sit here?") Don't push too hard, but keep reminding the club members that you're there. You should start to feel more welcome in the group soon.



### *Advice from You*

"Forgetting your homework? Start a habit of writing down EVERYTHING on a calendar or planner. Leave a note at home to remind yourself to check your planner, and mark off assignments as you finish them. Problem solved!"

*Hannah P.*  
Age 12, Arizona

Need advice? Got advice? Write:  
Help!

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Middleton, WI 53562





Go to "Start the fun" at  
[americangirlmagazine.com](http://americangirlmagazine.com)  
 to see more dream lockers  
 designed by girls like you.



Lauren M.  
 Age 12, Georgia

Remember the Braid Parade hairstyles  
 from the January/February 2010 issue?  
 Kaitlyn J., age 8, from California  
 tried our "For School" hairstyle.  
 Look how great it turned out!

PUMPKINS  
 YOU PICK 'EM →

# Behind the Scenes

You wouldn't be-leaf how  
 much fun we had making  
 this fall-themed issue!

To create more fairies,  
 go to "Start the fun" at  
[americangirlmagazine.com](http://americangirlmagazine.com)  
 and let your creativity  
 take flight.



Our Puzzle Pal, Sakaya P.,  
 sent us this leaf maze  
 that she made herself.  
 It looks like she put a lot  
 of hard work into it!

Rayelin H., age 9, from Georgia made a  
 Study Spot and put her own twist on it.  
 Instead of using cork coasters, she  
 used a styrofoam star for the memo  
 board and painted it. Nice job!



Clara P., age 11, from Oregon, and Jacqueline  
 A., age 10, from Arizona, tested costumes  
 from our "Be the Queen of Halloween" quiz.  
 Go to [americangirlmagazine.com](http://americangirlmagazine.com) and click  
 on "Start the fun" to get more costume ideas.





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What color are her glasses? \_\_\_\_\_

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What's her favorite sport? \_\_\_\_\_

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What's her pet's name? \_\_\_\_\_

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# American Girl

Coming up in the November/December issue of *American Girl* magazine

## Glittery Gifts

Create pretty presents that sparkle and shine.

## Winter Sippers

Make warm drinks that will keep you toasty even on the chilliest days.

## Festive Dresses

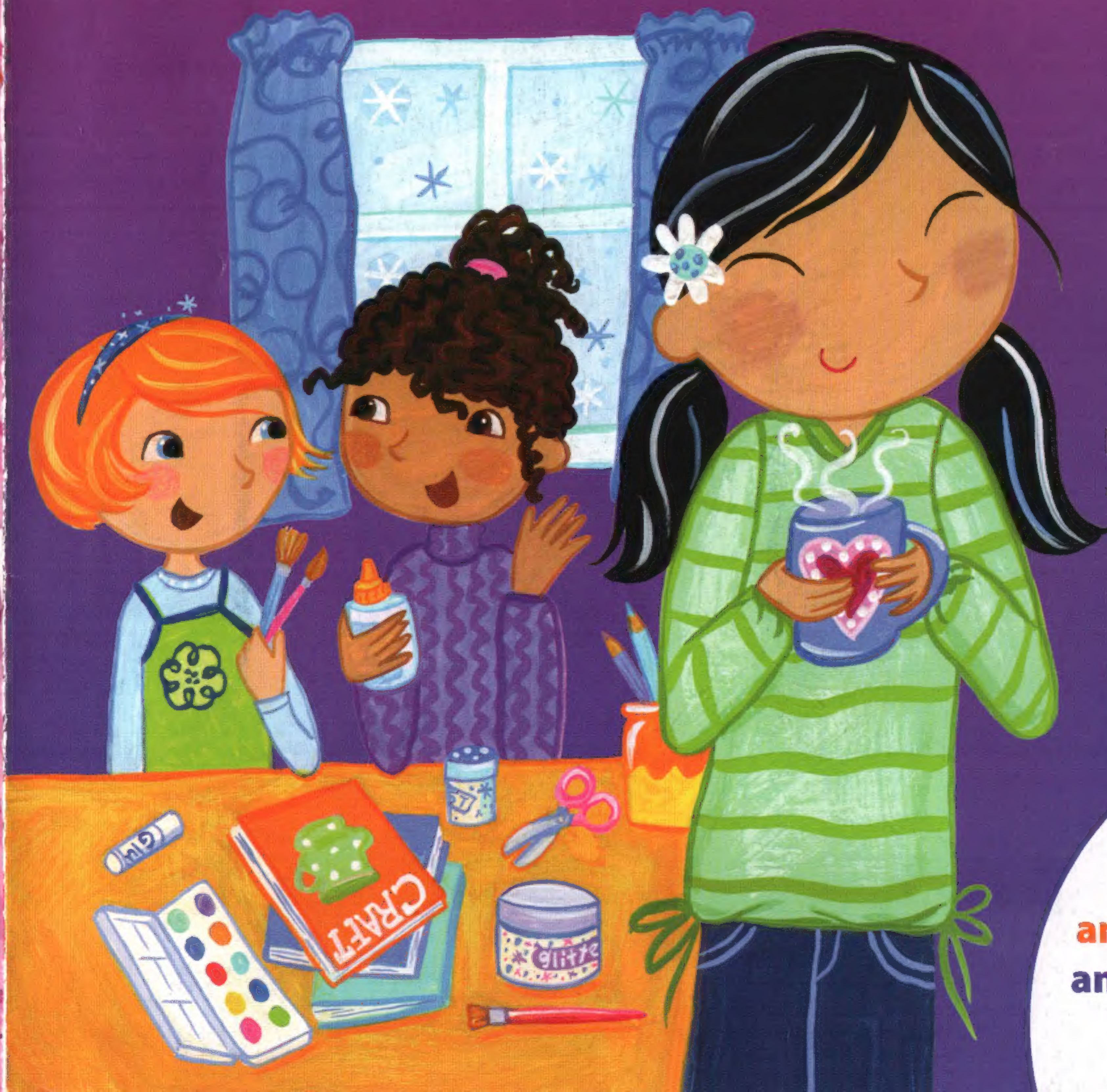
See girls' one-of-a-kind holiday gown designs.

## A-maze-ing!

We've never had so many mazes in *American Girl* magazine!

## Present Problems

Learn what to do when you open a gift and it isn't what you thought it would be.



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fun and games, go to  
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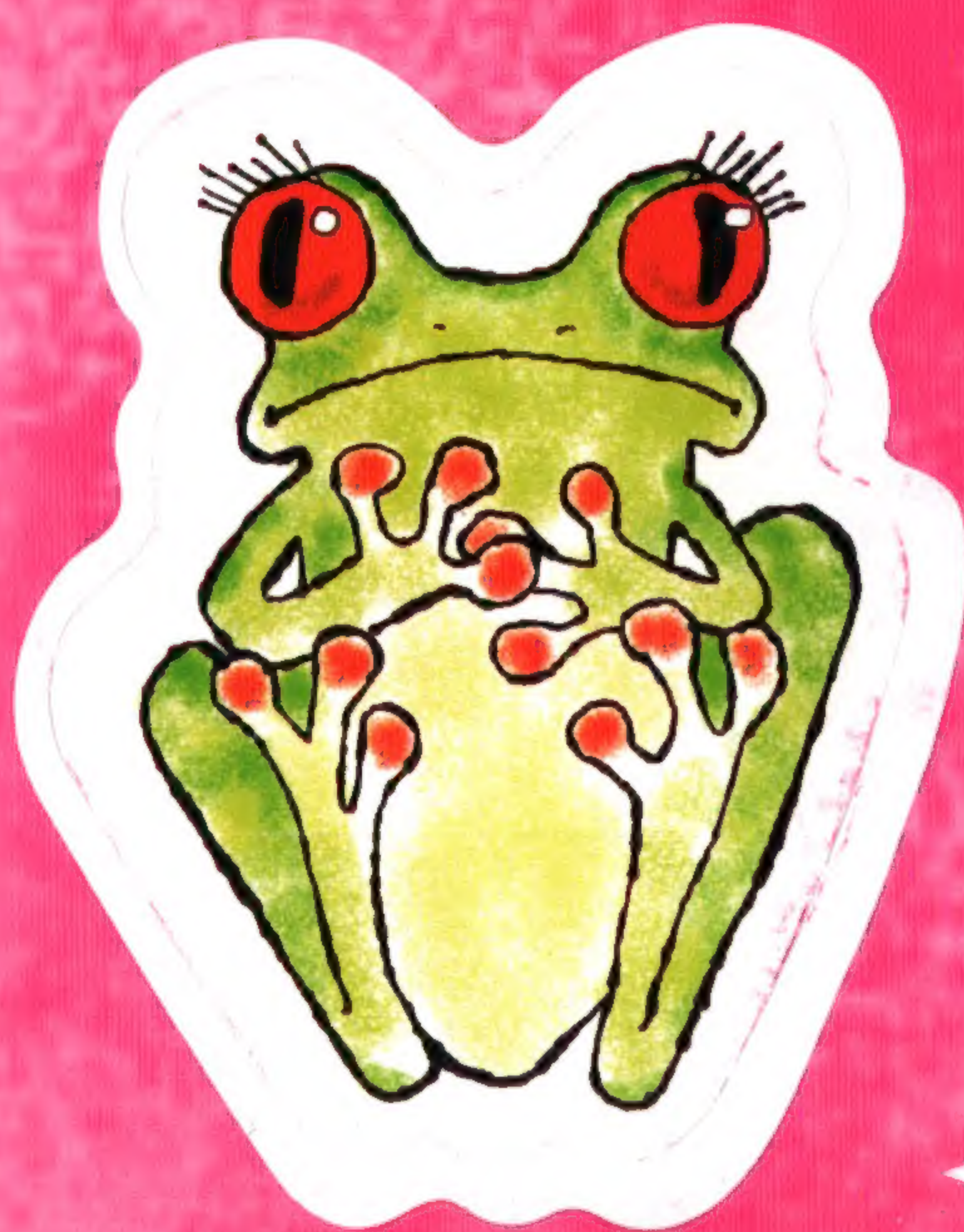
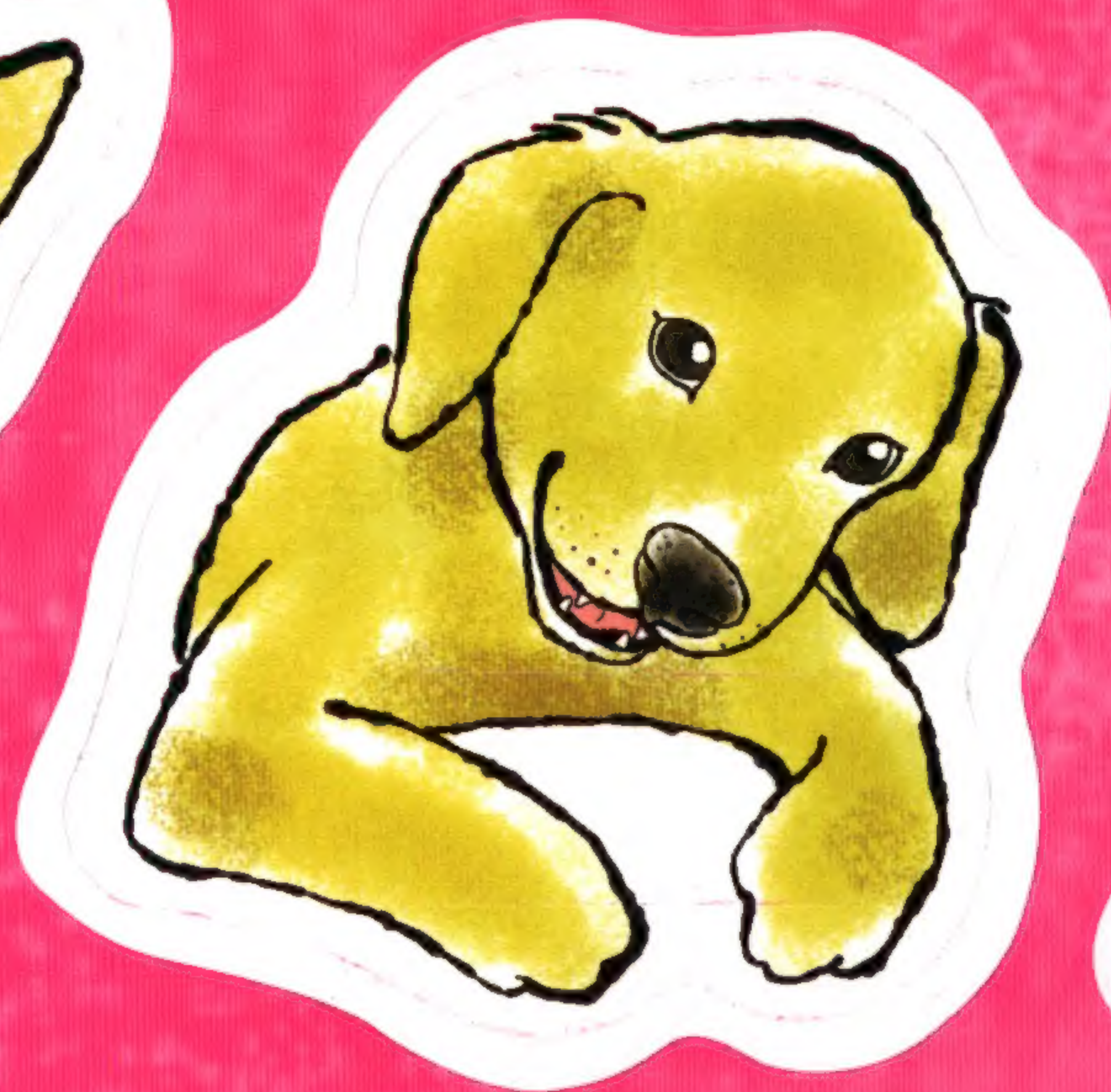
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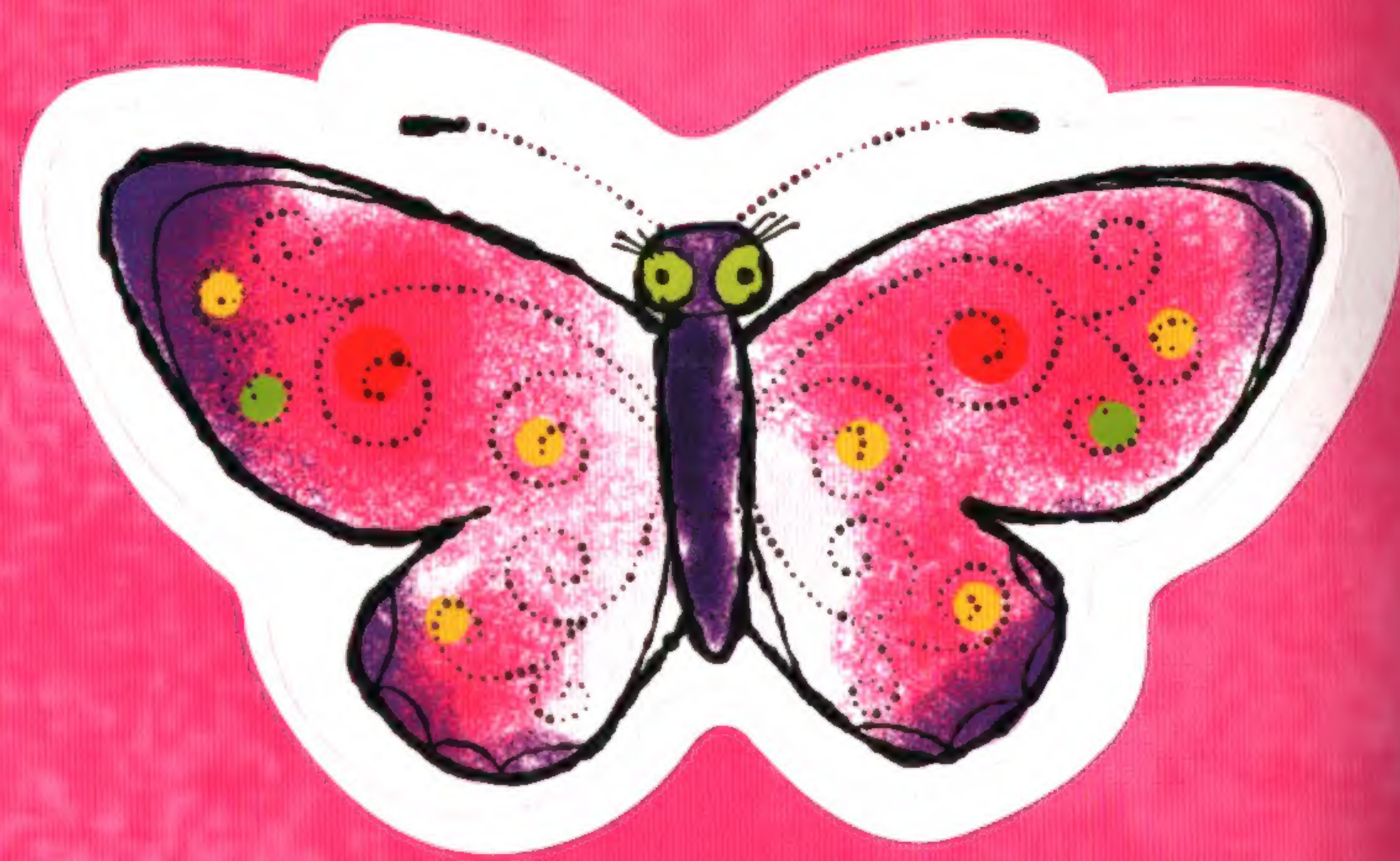


# Pencil Pals

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